

HARRY WALKER: Unassuming Star
LAY RIGHTS: Victory in Court



SEX AND POLITICS:
Is Clinton Home Free?

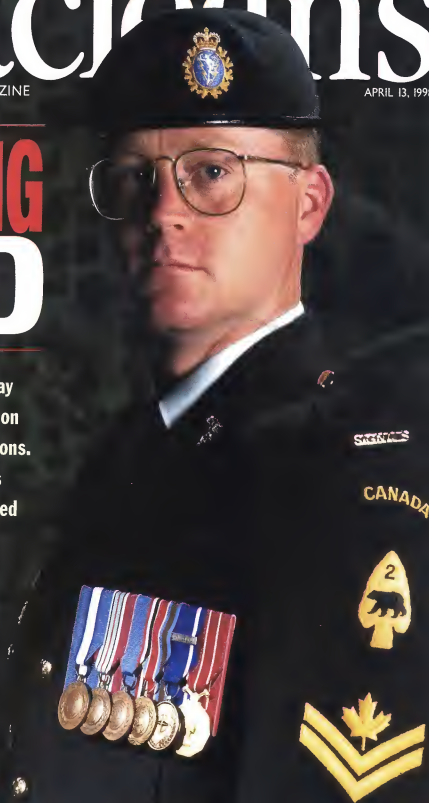
Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

APRIL 13, 1998

FIGHTING MAD

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\$8,000 in a military plagued
by low pay, squalid housing
and plummeting morale.



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A top-down view of a wooden desk. On the left, a desk lamp with a white shade is partially visible. In the center, a black calculator lies horizontally. To the right of the calculator, a pen and some papers are scattered. The text "Time to manage the road as well as you've managed your career." is superimposed in the center of the image.

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This Week

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14 Fighting mad

The pay is bad, the work is grueling and rearing a family is becoming all but impossible—for many Canadian soldiers, that is the reality of military life in the late 1990s. Frustrated and angry, they are increasingly speaking out about their conditions and concerns.

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Is Clinton
home free?

U.S. President Bill Clinton was triumphant after a judge threw out Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against him. But the special prosecutor was still after him.

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1. *Microbial control agents: principles and practice*, 2nd edn, by J. E. Bennett and J. H. Seng, 1998, Chapman & Hall, 300 pp., £35.00, ISBN 0 412 54620 5.
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National League MVP Larry Walker, the best Canadian baseball player since Ferguson Jenkins, walks slowly, talks softly and carries a tee shirt.

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Mission
accomplished

Capping a bitter seven-year battle by Delwyn Wood, the Supreme Court ruled that Alberta's human rights legislation does apply to gay-

From The Managing Editor

Starving the military

Back in 1964, when Paul Hellyer, the defence minister, took the bold step of integrating Canada's three armed forces into a single command with a single defence staff under a single chief, the country had 122,000 troops in uniform. Ottawa was spending a staggering—or so it seemed then—\$1.5 billion a year on defence. Hellyer confidently predicted that integration, by eliminating duplication (or, in this instance, triplication), would make it possible to reduce the Forces by 10,000 and trim \$100 million a year in personnel and operating costs. Which savings could then be invested in desperately needed new military equipment. Suitably impressed, the editor of Maclean's named Hellyer one of the "Outstanding Canadians of 1964."

As time marched on, integration began anti-cution and green uniforms, and Canada's military role in the world became increasingly confused and confused. The Soviet buster failed; the United States pulled out of Vietnam; Canadian troops in Europe collapsed. The notion that Canada needed destroyers and submarines to deter enemy subs from prowling the continental shelf began to seem silly. But in Ottawa at least, new things did not change. Successive ministers of defence—as astonishing 22 of them since Hellyer—all had the same three objectives. Demand for the volume of tasks assigned to the Forces, they wanted to reduce the numbers in uniform, to cut the defence budget and to invest more in new equipment. They certainly succeeded on the first score: the Forces are now down to 50,000 men and women. Of late, they can claim some success



on the second defence spending has dropped by \$2.6 billion in the past five years (to \$9.4 billion this year). But the third objective—to invest more in equipment—has become a bad joke. Ottawa will spend \$1 billion less on equipment this year than it did five years ago—and only 18 cents of every defence dollar goes to equipment today, compared with 35 cents five years ago and 39 cents 10 years ago.

It is no exaggeration to say that Canada's armed forces are in dire straits. First, the Somali inquiry revealed grave flaws in command, accountability and discipline. Now, a parliamentary committee is probing the complexities of service personnel and their families. This week's cover stories paint a troubling portrait of the woes of the lower ranks. Their numbers continue to shrink while United Nations peacekeeping commitments keep mounting, with the result that too few soldiers are forced to rotate too often through too many hot spots. When they are at home, many of them live in poverty in substantial housing, unable to make ends meet as soldiers that fall ever further behind other Canadians. Some moonlight to pay their bills while others turn to food banks to feed their children. The military seems strangely out of touch. It has never come to grips with the issue of welfare of its soldiers, the bread of life. Many of its soldiers were using food banks. Was anyone at defence headquarters aware that some of the peacekeepers sent to Bosnia had to buy their own food? It's a heck of a way to run an army.



Hellyer: reorganizing the armed forces

ing spouses. The brief of the army was blowily unaware that some of its soldiers were using food banks. Was anyone at defence headquarters aware that some of the peacekeepers sent to Bosnia had to buy their own food? It's a heck of a way to run an army.

Stephen Hume

Editor-in-Chief Robert Lewis is on vacation

Newsroom Notes:

Decoding the military

For this week's cover package, a team of Maclean's writers—including Senior Writer Jane O'Hara, and associate editors John Wood and Stephanie Nolan—barged out across the country to investigate claims that Canada's soldiers had become the working poor. O'Hara pored over thousands of pages of testimony from a parliamentary committee that had un-



O'Hara, Wood (center) and Nolan

covered horror stories about the living conditions of the armed forces. She then began trying to decode the military culture and penetrate its byzantine bureaucracy. She was not surprised when, en route to an interview with Gen. Maurice Baril, chief of the defence staff, at defence headquarters in Ottawa, her military guide lost his way. Researcher-reporter Sherida Dziel took the military's complex pay system. While Nolan found a military family down on its luck, Nicol flew to Edmonton's wintery tundra, a world of acronyms and acronym. It was, he says, like "lightning in a foreign land. I needed a map and a dictionary."

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Black: capability to manipulate public opinion?

National newspapers

So, the access on month baren Conrad Black's that "the plan for a new daily has his rivals in a tiny." "The scoop on Conrad Black," Cover, March 30. How about Black's control of most major printed media in Canada leaves honest journalists in despair? or "Conrad Black has capacity to manipulate public opinion in Canada?"

Eric Blair
Hawker

Like others who have written about Conrad Black's new national daily, you suggest its estimated \$100-million cost over eight years is something worthy of notice. As someone who has spent his life as the newspaper industry, I can assure you that this is possible for an understanding of this scale. Indeed, in your own article ("Gearing the Globe") you show what a national newspaper can cost.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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the Globe made a profit of \$30.4 million on revenues of \$245.2 million last year. In other words, the current annual cost of publishing the Globe is \$207.8 million, which means Black's \$100 million couldn't feed a national newspaper much beyond six months, let alone eight years.

Wayne Paré
Saskatoon

As a devoted reader of The Globe and Mail, I am very concerned that the newspaper is being dumbed down. Michael Volpy had an outstanding column and it could have been retained. I hope the Globe never becomes another "McPaper" or anything similar to USA Today.

Del Holst
Regina

Anybody looking for evidence of the dumbed down of The Globe and Mail need look no further than editor-in-chief William Thornell's recent piece on the Dave Foxman. On the other hand, Black's strong political views make him a politician, not a journalist.

And then there is Barbara Ansel's assertion, in your same issue, that a writer who believes the way should still be critical to the Victoria Cross ("The unseemly pilorying of Alan Eagleson"). Thank heavens for The Economist.

Rob McEwen
Toronto

Newfoundlanders are continually offended by the Globe's arrogant editorial and inaccurate reporting on matters of crucial importance to our economic well-being. One hopes we will receive better treatment from the national competitors.

Barbara Chalkin
St. John's, NL

Eagleson on the cross

I have just read with interest Barbara Ansel's unique approach to the Alan Eagleson affair ("The unseemly pilorying of Alan Eagleson," March 30). It is fascinating that there is hardly any reference to the player he stole from and whose lives he helped to ruin. Without their prodigious pursuit of justice, Eagleson might well have escaped any consequences for his actions. On the issue of the Hockey Hall of Fame, her allusion to someone having their Victoria Cross taken away because they were later found to

Language no barrier

Your March 30 issue published three letters on proposed immigration policy changes, particularly as regards mandatory language knowledge ("Immigration policy"). There seems to be an underlying assumption that Chinese and other non-anglophone francophone immigrants are unable or unwilling to learn English and/or French. I spoke nothing but a Chinese dialect (which was always spoken in our home) when I arrived in Canada at the age of 6. Forty odd years later, I was selected director of the National Gallery of Canada in part because I was a Canadian who could speak both English and French.

Hsin-Hsin Shih
Toronto

have embraced from the army is disingenuous to say the least. But the most revealing part of her column are her comments about "the mob." With an aristocratic disdain, we can almost hear her call: "Let them eat cake." Ansel and Eagleson belonged to the same elite class that purports to run this country. However the elite are not to be subject to the same standards of justice as everybody else. The Family Compact is apparently still very much with us.

Christopher Black
Wexley, Ont.

Alan Eagleson, in spite of his shortcomings, gave us Canadians perhaps our proudest unified moment since 1867. Byman, back to the den.

Robert Cahan
Toronto

Barbara Ansel's column represents the first time that my fellow's dilemma has been explained to the public. No other journalist has presented the story with an investigative attitude to his real problems and explained it in a concise and unbiased manner. Congress support to Maricourt and specifically Barbara Ansel for delivering the story in a calm, independent and objective manner.

Julia A. Eagleson
Toronto

There is no unseemly pilorying of Alan Eagleson. In fact, he is only reaping a portion of what he has sown. By pleading guilty to lesser charges, Eagleson has managed to use the system to his utmost advantage. Translating multiple years' losses and keep the public parsing on to what really happened. This is reinforced by Barbara Ansel's column. Eagleson knows exactly what happened and that is why he never officially took action against another Russ Conway for his

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THE MAIL

ing allegedly misled and slandered him. To have done so would have meant dropping the allegations and having to face cross-examination on every minute detail. How do you think he would have fared then? The facts did the Eagle in, not the system or the public outcry. Of course, what do I know? I'm just another disgruntled hockey-playing attorney having to endure a few more tasteless lawyer jokes courtesy of the Eagle's contribution.

James G. Clements
Dedham-Quincy, Que.

Barbora, where have you been? Every good thing Alan Eagleson did for hockey was but a setup for him to swindle money. Did you not read about his pilfering the funds from the sale of the advertising of the boards during Hockey Canada's trip to Europe? This money was to go towards the players' association pension fund. Instead, it went into the Alan Eagleson fund. Did you not learn of his false legal bills for having to go after insurance money for injured players when the insurance company had already paid without

pressure? The list goes on. Everything Eagleson did was a setup to line his pockets, and you are willing to forgive him for the wonderful job he did in managing hockey. This man is a crook and he belongs in jail.

Ron Kapp,
Markham, Ont.

Oh, the irony of it. Aniel began her whole attack on Alan Eagleson with a biblical reference to the mob yelking her Barabbaas. That notorious mob was made up, of course, of ignorant, mindless fools who hoped to see Barabbaas freed even though he was a known criminal—a vicious schemer and a murderer. Aniel goes on to say that since Eagleson chose to play her game we can never know the content of his guilt. It seems to me that this works in Eagleson's favor, rather than against it. Finally, she claims that Eagleson is responsible for the mega-salaries that today's hockey stars command. Really? This from a man who in heaven to have colluded with team owners to keep players' salaries reduced? It is unfortunate that some sort of recognition cannot be given to columnists who strive for the noble of fairness, spacious editorializing, far, with this remarkable bit of writing. Aniel has reached the journalistic equivalent of absolute zero.

J. J. Birkett,
Calgary

Just to set the record straight, the crowd that yelled for Barabbaas yelled to set him free. It was Jesus's flesh the mob was drooling for. The first byline Aniel describes. And, despite her disposition to take a conciliatory position on just about anything, I doubt that even the contrary Aniel would paint Eagleson as a Christ figure.

Way Jordan,
Montreal, Que.

Thanks to Barbara Aniel for giving us a more accurate slant on Alan Eagleson's misadventures in the United States (and increasingly in Canada). It is sufficient to dismiss someone as a "corrupted felon" or whatever, while completely ignoring the process responsible for imposing the label. Legislator (or just plain easily-bureaucratic) who working the letter of the law, seems to be devoid of common sense or the slightest regard for human life. Alan Eagleson has paid the price required by the law, such as it is. The rest is cruelty.

David J. C. Croft,
Toronto

Columnists often try to tell us that day is right, black is white, or wrong is right. While I tend to admire this kind of ironic elastic behavior, simply declaring a particular reality does not make it so. I suspect that this is how we should interpret Barbara Aniel's spindly but little attempt to reconstruct the "good" name of Alan Eagleson. Despite his

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people to end their own lives and the lives of those who are terminally ill and incapable of making that decision themselves.

Gregory F. Brown,
Ottawa

To end someone's life is like putting an end to sleep. Who has the freedom to select the appropriate end of this event? Should this freedom be given to those who are terminally ill in a doctor's office? Should the will to end a human life be as easy as going to a medicine cabinet and filling up a syringe with the right potent drug and injecting it? If euthanasia is not done in a more controlled and democratic manner, I am afraid it might be as effortless as death. In a world where there is a growing segment of people who are no longer economically to support the aged in their ill health, will legalized euthanasia give us a guilt-free solution? Before euthanasia is given a free reign, many such questions will have to be dealt with.

Debi Sims,
Kennebec, Ont.

Royal limitations

You write that the Queen's newest duties are "not tied down for the crown's royal responsibilities" ("Downsizing royalty," World, March 23). Actually, there are only four coronets who carry out royal duties and figure in the cost. These are the grandchildren of King George V: The Duke of Gloucester, Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra of Kent and Prince Michael of Kent. They and their wives are the only royals outside the Queen's immediate family who are addressed as His or Her Royal Highness. The other 1100 are the Queen's family: her mother, sister, husband, children and those grandchildren referred to by Charles and Andrew. Victoria Anne's children are not "royal" per se. Limitations on who could be designated royal were established early in this century.

Linda M. Whipple,
Windsor, Ont.

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Where society fails the dying

I was heartened by your article "On the Hurt Lines with Death" (Cover, March 9), which discusses the palliative care being done by people like Dr. Doree De Groot in Vancouver. But I fear that care for the dying, the suffering and the handicapped is slowly becoming a threatened institution in our society—a society that seems ever more bent on finding an idealistic, pragmatic and, ultimately, inhumane solution to its problems. Focus is taken away from each of us, as a member of society, can do to help others, and is shifted instead to what is the quickest solution that has the least impact on the rest of society.

Wanting to end suffering and improve quality of life are noble and compassionate goals, but that doesn't mean that any means to achieve those goals are justified. I understand the argument supporting euthanasia, and I hate to see people suffering. But I take issue with ending someone's life simply because we think they are in too much pain or are leading a low quality of life. I also disagree with helping people die through self-administered drugs for such help. In the first case, no one is qualified to judge another person's suffering. Is my suffering worse than yours? Do I feel pain the same way you do? And what is quality of life anyway? It is certainly not a scientific term. How can we be justified in making life and death decisions on something so subjective? And in the second case, how much of a person's suffering to die is a result of societal attitudes that directly or indirectly make these people feel they are a burden to the rest of us?

I think this issue exemplifies the kind

our society is taking towards more emphasis on rights and less on responsibility. If we focused at least as much attention on society's responsibility as we do on rights, I think we would find very different solutions to our society's problems. I see the right to die as a natural progression from the abortion issue, for example. If focusing so much on a woman's right to abortion, we forget about responsibility. We don't want to be responsible for all the difficult issues. We would have to be too compassionate, too unselfish. So it's easier to pass a law saying every woman has the right to an abortion.

In order to have a humane society, we all need to take responsibility. This can be done, to start with, by education. Children must be taught that we have certain rights but we do not live in a vacuum, and therefore we have responsibilities to others. We can support, through donations or volunteering, those agencies that care for the dying, the suffering, the handicapped. We can learn more about what a person goes through during the different stages of an illness. We can support research that looks for new ways to alleviate suffering. We can become more aware of how our attitudes have an impact on a person's desire to choose death. But above all else, we must change our naive assumption that if it doesn't directly affect us, then it's not our problem. It is as if we, as people who cannot lead short, or painful, or painful, or who suffer emotionally or physically who lack dignity. It is us, wherever we choose to practice that inherently makes life more easier for ourselves at the expense of the weak.

The David Lloyd leader members to advocate specific solutions to Canada's political, social and economic problems. Unpublished submissions may not be considered or regular columns or appear on an electronic bulletin board.

Barbara McDermott,
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Gregory F. Brown

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If you ever wondered when the Pontiac Trans Sport ranks amongst other minivans, you might want to pick up the February issue of *Car and Driver*. (If you haven't guessed already, it came out on top.) When you consider the fact that it's got all-weather traction control, flexible seating for eight, standard 4-wheel ABS, air seat pads, control, fuel-saving power V6, and a 180-horsepower V6, it would've been a crime if it hadn't been ranked number one.

So, when you think about it, it's no wonder that it takes a Trans Sport driver a week to reach a burrito. But then again, it's built for drivers, isn't it?

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Opening Notes

Edited by TANYA DAVIES

Fighting for more coverage

Hockey players must wear pads to avoid broken bones. Baseball players must wear cleats so they will not fall when they run. Peppable beach volleyball players must wear bathing trunks—well, because the Swiss-based International Volleyball Federation says so. Though male players also wear baggy shorts and tank tops, now, the women are not only scantily clad but up, in skirts. Discrimination, they say. The mandatory clothing rule was enforced at the 1990 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, where beach volleyball debuted as a model sport. "The women had to wear their bikinis on the aerial podium, while the

men wore their countries' award uniforms for the ceremony," says Kristine Dinkich, a Toronto-based volleyball coach who represents female players for the federation.

Dinkich has put forward a recommendation to the federation on behalf of all the volleyball players to alter the rule. "The federation needs a wider-up call that these women are Olympic athletes," says Mary McGroarty, executive director of the Ontario-based Canadian Association for Women and Sport and Physical Activity. "They aren't cheerleaders."

Althea Simoes: angry about discrimination



Follicle follies



Cyber scoops

More over U.S. scandalizer Matt Drudge. Canada now has its own political muckraker, Pierre Bozorgne. The Bozorgne Newsweek, a Web site (www.bozorgne.org) that spills the beans on confidential capital information, debuted in February and has become a must see for Ottawa political junkies. Bozorgne has found the secret to ferreting out gossip on Parliament Hill: stick a rumor on the Internet and wait for the response. "I put up a story about a political party, got a load of e-mail from people on the Hill," says 39-year-old Bozorgne. "Some are furious

with me, but there are lots who want to tell me more."

Bozorgne is no amateur cyber-scooper. The author of three books about the Internet, he writes a column in the parliamentary weekly *The Hill Times*, served as an Ottawa alderman in 1991 and was unsuccessfully as a Liberal in the 1993 federal election. But Bozorgne says his scoop show on Liberal bias. He claims to have broken the story that Hugh Segal was plotting a Tory leadership bid, with the support of pollster Allan Gregg and Senator Norman Adams. "I've had surprisingly few complaints," Bozorgne says of his scoops. "But I'll correct them. I can't use the bulk of what I get."

swind between those with chains down and those with, since Nelson is "halfway" banned, he is placement should be fair-challenged to continue the pattern. Let the campaign for a bold president begin.

A \$5-million blunder

SaskPower has blown a tune. Last year, the Crown Corporation sent a subsidiary, Channel Lake Petroleum, to Alberta's Desert Energy Marketing Ltd. for \$15.6 million, about \$2.5 million less than SaskPower officials and the board had expected. The recent Deputy premier Donow Langstaffer explained in the legislature last month that one or SaskPower officials approved and signed the third and final agreement—without obtaining a lower price than previous drafts—without reading it. The whole affair has proved embarrassing to the ruling New Democrats, and a blow to the opposition. The legislature's Energy corporations committee has begun examining the role and operations of Channel Lake. Says Langstaffer: "This government is extremely disappointed in the events."

To the moon with some Canadian help

The race to the moon—what could be more American? Well, it is an often-overlooked fact (at least according to U.S. officials) that Canadians played a large role in the U.S. bid to beat the Russians. In the 1960s, NASA imported more than 35 technicians and engineers who had been working on Canada's Aero Arrow until its scrapping in 1959. Among them were Owen Maynard, chief engineer for the Apollo project, and Jim Chamberlin, who helped design the space shuttle.

Out to space, and another space program—this time on TV—also owes alot to Canadian talent. From the Earth to the Moon, a 13-part mini-series created by actor Tom Hanks, debuted on April 5 on HBO in the United States and on The Movie Network in Canada. Re-creating the Gemini and Apollo projects in exclusive detail pushed the budget up to \$80 million, making it one of the most expensive television series in history. On-

screen Canadians include Wendy Crewson, Matt Caven and Dave Foley, who effects a Dallas Texas accent for his portrayal of astronaut Al Bean. Behind the scenes, Canadian master model-maker Nick Proach designed the scale replicas for the special effects, and Paul Field, official artist on the Apollo Soyuz test project, was technical adviser. Meanwhile, Canadian-born screenwriter Graham Yost (*Speed*)—son of longtime TV Ontario movie host Rick Yost—did ample duty, serving as production supervisor, writing an episode and co-writing another with Hanks, and making his directorial debut with episode 5, airing on April 18.

Sitting as the director's chair, Yost says, was "kind of a comedy" of working on the mini-series. "Tom went to bat for me with HBO and told them to give me a chance," says Yost. "It was a great experience." Call it one small favor from Hanks—and one giant step for Yost.



Foley: Caven acts and more

BEST-SELLERS

1. *Pardon My French*, Dan Aykroyd
 2. *The Secret Garden*, Jane Gaskell
 3. *Pravda*, Tim Hetherington
 4. *Business in the Sun*, David Crockett
 5. *Barbie Loves*, Tyl Saylor
 6. *Gold Mountain*, Charles Johnson
 7. *The Independent*, Sam Donaldson
 8. *Lunch Party*, Chris Steele
 9. *Business in the Sun*, David Crockett
 10. *The Best of David Wright*, David Wright
- NON-FICTION**
1. *The Girl of the Year*, Thomas Cahill
 2. *Take no Prisoners*, Bruce R. Wilson
 3. *Simple Living*, Bruce R. Wilson
 4. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas J. Stanley
 5. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas J. Stanley
 6. *The Art of Happiness*, Dalai Lama
 7. *How the West Was Won*, David Crockett
 8. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas J. Stanley
 9. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas J. Stanley
 10. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas J. Stanley

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Undertakers

Toronto lawyer Sylvia Matheson's second novel, *Undertakers*, is a black comedy about lawyer Claire Cunningham, who is stuck painting a lingerie-themed wedding shower for her unrepentant colleague. But when her co-workers start mysteriously dying, Claire realizes she has more than just a party to worry about.

POP MOVIES

The wings of love



City of Angels is a Hollywood remake of the 1981 German film *Wings of Desire*, directed by Wim Wenders. Angels stars Nicolas Cage as Seth, an angel who falls in love with a mortal heart surgeon, Maggie (Meg Ryan). The two ignore over their strange relationship until they realize that to be truly happy, they must sacrifice everything but love.

Top stories in Canada, based on reporting in the United States, are the week's top 10 movies on April 2. On weekends, numbers of theaters/weeks showing.

1. <i>Twelve Monkeys</i>	22,200,000
2. <i>Braveheart</i>	21,300,000
3. <i>Wild Things</i>	19,600,000
4. <i>The Man in the Iron Mask</i>	17,200,000
5. <i>Forever Yours</i>	16,500,000
6. <i>Save the Private Dance</i>	15,100,000
7. <i>As Good as Dead</i>	14,800,000
8. <i>The Russian Revolution</i>	13,500,000
9. <i>4th of July</i>	13,400,000
10. <i>Mr. Bean</i>	13,300,000

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Passages



DEID: Former U.S. congresswoman Elinor Alou, 77, of complications from heart surgery, in New York City. A labor and coal rights lawyer, the New York Democrat was elected to Congress in 1970, becoming the first Jewish woman to hold a seat. She was a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War and President Richard Nixon, and was at the forefront of the emerging feminist movement in the 1970s.

DEID: Judge Marvin Cohen, 88, after a lengthy illness, in Ottawa. Cohen's two-decade academic career included the position of dean of law at McGill University in Montreal from 1954 to 1969. In the late-1960s, he was named chair of the Royal Commission Against Hate Propaganda. Cohen was Judge Ad Hoc at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

DEID: Conductor Charles Israel, 70, after a battle with cancer, in Caldon East, Ont., north of Toronto. For 33 years, Israel was artistic director and conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Canada's oldest choral ensemble. In 1979, he founded the country's pre-eminent professional choir, the Elmer Iseler Singers.

DEID: The first Roman Catholic priest to be elected as an MP. Rev. Bob Doyle, 49, of brown cancer, in Saskatoon. Doyle was elected as the NDP member for Saskatoon East in 1979. In 1984, he was ordered by the Vatican not to seek re-election for a third term, and he complied, saying that he was a priest first.

DEID: Labor activist Pat McEwry, 67, of heart attack, in Winnipeg. McEwry founded the Canadian Agency for Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers, which merged with the Canadian Auto Workers in 1989.

ANNOUNCED: The 1998 winners of the Kilham Prize, worth \$50,000 each, for distinguished work in the sciences—University of Laval professor Jacques Lussier, 62, for health sciences, University of British Columbia professor Martha Solomon, 64, for engineering, and University of Ottawa professor Jean C. Szeles, 53, for natural sciences, in Ottawa.

FIGHTING MAD

COVER

BY JANE O'HARA

A sailor aboard HMCS Calgary starts canvassing for the United Way—and discovers that 11 members of the ship's company cannot make a donation because they are actually receiving benefits from the charitable agency. At Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, a private gets up in the pre-dawn hours every morning to deliver newspapers in order to help support his wife and three children. In Esquimalt, a military wife says she actually looks forward to her husband's six-month tours of duty at sea—because the money saved by not having to feed him at home brings the family a small step closer to making ends meet. These are some of the stories of the men and women who have chosen a career in the Canadian Forces. They are Canada's fighting poor and they are fighting mad—angry that their noble career choice has also meant hardship and deprivation. "We put our troops in jeopardy when we don't give them enough money to support their families," says former vice-admiral Chuck Thomas. "Soldiers have never been rich—but I've never seen it like this."

Neither has Gary Robinson. A second lieutenant at CFB Moose Jaw—the home of the Canada's perennially ragged Seaforwards—he finds himself facing an enemy far tougher than he had imagined when he first set out to try to earn his wings. It's not the battle lines in some foreign war zone that frighten him—it's finding himself and his family on the breadlines here at home. Unable to look after his wife and two children on his annual \$30,000 salary, Robinson at one point volunteered as a security guard at Moose Jaw's Town and Country Mall for \$5.75 an hour. "Every evening, I put on a really bad suit with a terrible clip-on tie and chase teenagers," he says. "I'm an officer so I was supposed to project a better image. But there I was a mall security guy. I had to sack in a lot of pride to do this."

Two months ago, Robinson was one of about 750 air force personnel who filed the officer's grievance at CFB Moose Jaw and testified before the parliamentary standing committee on national defence and veterans affairs. Since October, the committee has been holding a coast-to-coast inquiry into living conditions among Canada's military—and hearing heartbreaking stories from members of the army, navy, air force, and their spouses. The scope of the complaints—almost all of them from enlisted personnel

and lower-ranking officers—has ranged from low pay and squalid housing to soldiers having to buy their own boots when posted to Bosnia. "It's disgusting," complained Regina MP and committee member Art Hanger after visiting CFB Edmonton's army base in late January. "Some families are living in trash that not even prisoners would live in."

The conditions have not only outraged the travelling politicians, they have shocked long-serving military veterans who have seen their share of hard times in the service. "The members of the military have become the working poor," says Thomas, who joined the navy in 1964 and resigned in 1983 as the head of the maritime union. Much of the decline is due to the bloody fire of downsizing. Over the past seven years, the number of troops has been slashed from 86,000 to 60,000. Salaries were frozen, promotions stalled as workloads increased—while the military budget was brought down to a projected \$8.4 billion this year from \$12.4 billion.

Master Cpl Wilfred Tremblay of Peterborough, who is pictured as

■ Tremblay (second from left) with military colleagues. "Wrong place, wrong time. I should be a sergeant by now—it's frustrating."



Canada's troops are suffering—and angry

This week's cover could be a poster boy for the changes. Currently a radio operator, he has been called to his rank for the past 10 years. Even after 10 years' experience—and with five UN tours under his belt—Tremblay, 35, says he still makes only \$28,000 a year, \$2,000 less than the starting salary for most municipal policemen. "Wrong place, wrong time" is how he laconically describes his situation. "I should be a sergeant by now—it's frustrating."

Like every other fighting force in the world, the Canadian military has been forced to serve in silence, to accept hardship and wear it as a badge of courage. But, as revealed in interviews with Maclean's, the strain of trying to raise families in a military still wedded to a tradition—and salaries—of single men is starting to show. That accounts for much of the anger also encountered by the committee—and the thousands of pages of testimony attesting that the 30,000 men and women in the lower ranks—from private to master corporal—

are more tightly strapped than a rockhound on an expedition. In Esquimalt, the West Coast naval base outside Victoria, sailors joke that B.C. stands for "Bragg Cash." At Cold Lake air force base in Alberta, chaplain Kelly Bokros says he has seen a man "pass the hat in the lounge" to raise money so an impoverished colleague could fly home to his mother's funeral. Cpl Bernard Sarasin, an air force technician at CFB Moose Jaw, came to the committee hearings bearing his personal financial statements from 1993 to 1997. The documents indicated that Sarasin now makes \$360 a year less in take-home pay than he did in 1993 while holding the same rank. "The numbers are there," he said emotionlessly. "I didn't even take into consideration how the cable bill, the power bill, my car insurance and everything else has gone up."

Although millions of Canadian civilians and their families find themselves in equally dire financial straits, the situation is magnified for the military because of the unique demands of the ser-

view. There is no civilian equivalent. Soldiers can be called away from home—even from a honeymoon—at a moment's notice. On duty, whether it is stacking sandbags during last year's Mission Jody or a training exercise during January's ice storm in Eastern Canada, they can work up to 30 hours a day, and unlike their *Hydra* workers they're paid alongside their civilian counterparts. "When made \$65 an hour, service members are not paid overtime."

Nor are most civilian employees forced to accept constant and costly postings that uproot spouses and children from friends, family and schools. And there are dangerous hours of duty—like Thomas Gault, 39, from Hull and the former *Vapour*—that call some members of the military away for up to 200 days a year. "It does not do a lot for morale," says Wil Wilmut, the base financial councillor at CFB Sackville. "We're paying them to let their lives on the line, and as some cases they could be making more on civilian."

For military members with families, the long absence can be devastating for those left behind.

Adam Grant, who has two children and is married to a leading seamstress at CFB Halifax, lives in a cramped apartment in the city's north end and says he sometimes cries himself to sleep when he has to leave his wife. "We're soldiers and the kids, we thought it wasn't an ideal situation, but he'll go a big way and we'll be at low comfortably," he told *Maclean's*. "Pipe dream. I would tell a woman considering military life today to run away while you can."

The sound and fury coming from the lower ranks has been duly noted by the military leadership. Within 24 hours of each party's commitment to Ottawa, Minister Blair, the chief of the defence staff, wrote a written summary on his desk at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. He has heard the complaints before. The not so rarest at all what they're saying. Blair told *Maclean's* in a disarmingly cheerful, amiable way. "To order to keep the good people in the Canadian Forces, we must be competitive with the outside world. We have to give them a standard of living—not the highest in the world—but we have to give a decent living to our people." And Defence Minister Art Eggleton said in an interview that the complaints were going to be given a high priority within his ministry. "I find the complaints our military are being under appreciated," says Eggleton. "There are very difficult economic conditions for a lot of them. But we have limited resources and we have to do it within a framework we can afford."

Late last year, partly in reaction to the committee hearings, Eggleton announced a



Anderson (right) with family had to work in a lot of cold.

The Canadian military is becoming 'an old army of very tired young men'

NO LIFE LIKE IT

Pay for the military jobs behind comparable civilian jobs

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General Duty

\$36,000 Discharge
1.5 years

\$42,300 Sgt. General Duty

\$47,000 Civilian Firefighters

\$46,400 Auto Assembly

\$36,000 General Duty (10 years)

*Duties and shift premiums increase rates by 15%

series of pay increases amounting to more per cent over two years. Blair asserts that while the raises are small, taken together they are still better "than a frozen industry across the board." But Master Sergeant Mario Costello, stationed at CFB Esplanade, told *Maclean's* they were "a drop in the bucket." Another soldier added that the pay lowered rather than raised morale. "It was just enough to plug us off," he said. Acknowledging the bitterness were the performance bonuses given last October to the military brass—officers from colonel on up pocketed an extra five per cent of their salary if they got a good rating. "We didn't want some people down as a means of bringing other people up," argued Eggleton in defence of the bonuses. "For being everybody up, that's the kind of way to go."

Yet despite the outcries and downing, the closing of 16 permanent bases, the low pay and the career stagnation, for the past years the Forces have been losing men at an alarming rate since the Kosovo War in the early 1990s. Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen have taken part in 17 different operations of widely varying scope at home and abroad since 1989. From Okla to Rwanda, from the Saguenay floods to Somalia, Canada's fighting forces have been called to do more while receiving less. In 1990, for example, soldiers, on average, saw active duty for out of 24 months, instead of the traditional 36 months. "They are becoming an old army of very tired young men," says Admiral Thomas. "They've been doing a much more rigorous rotation with not much relief before they're sent back on again."

But while the foreign deployments are hard on members, they also pay well—anywhere from \$330 to \$1,431 a month on top of a regular salary. The country's finest, highly trained soldiers are getting like mercenaries, volunteering for duty just for the money. "It's hard on them and it's hard on their families," says Peter Mike Burke, a former Catholic priest who has been counselling soldiers on CFB Esplanade for the past five years. "But they see it as a way out of debt. I've had a number of soldiers tell me that they didn't want to go again, but they do it to pay off their bills."

Burke's small wooden chapel on the base reminds the death of the problem. One room is set aside for prayer, another serves a more useful function: an emergency food supply for the dozens of needy military families at the base who can't make ends meet. Some observers say that the resulting frustration is undermining the very essence of Canada's once-proud military. Scott Taylor, the editor of *Spectator* in Corps, a military magazine devoted to the interests of the common soldier, says that troops no longer trust their senior officers to take care of them. And Taylor, whose magazine documents waste and mismanagement by the military brass, claims that the situation is not corrected, the command structure is in danger of crumbling. "The soldiers are not going to rise up and kill their officers," he says. "But it's the government equivalent when they speak out to the parliamentary committee. They are going over the heads of the officers to the politicians."

In fact, according to a recent internal Canadian Forces poll, 83 per cent of the military has lost faith in the leadership. That feeling was further reinforced in December when Lt.-Gen. W.C. Leach, the head of the army, told the parliamentary committee that he was unaware that some members of the lower ranks needed food banks to get by. "Was I paying attention to this?" asked Leach rhetorically. "I guess I have to say no." The statement disheartened common member Linda Beaudet, a Reform MP, given that one of his colleagues only seemed to plant a single phone call to discover that



Rank: a complicated and costly arena

decisions which put your life on the line," says Taylor, 37, who served in the army from 1982 to 1988.

There have been calls, meanwhile, for military leaders to institute a new family policy to reduce the stress on troops and their dependents. When the committee visited CFB Vancouver, northeast of Quebec City, in February, Capt. Anthony Ridd, a senior staff officer of psycho-social services, pointed out that the military hierarchy has not kept up with dramatic changes in Canadian families. Military families now include single parents (both men and women), married servicemen and servicewomen and more dual-career couples. Like most civilians, military officers now want to move involved with their kids, and army military spouses want a chance to work outside the home. That change has been lost to the military brass. "In the past, the army was a family, the family is still around as the traditional family where the wife would follow her husband anywhere," said Rodrigue. "Values have changed, but what have we done to adjust to that?"

Setting in his office in department of national defence headquarters, Blair told *Maclean's* that running the military in the 1990s—with the increased demands of families and the participation of women—was a far more complicated and costly exercise than it was in the past. Military structures and institutions were never de-

Politics of procurement

After years of campaigning bitterly about being forced to stand on guard for Canada with embarrassing outcrops of military hardware, the Canadian Forces are on something of a spending spree. Just came January's \$750-million purchase of 15 state-of-the-art search and rescue helicopters. Now, early this week, Defence Minister Art Eggleton plans to announce that the government is buying the may four lightly used British submarines for close to the same amount. But while the helicopter project stirred up a lot of political noise getting off the ground, the submarine deal is expected to slip more quietly beneath the surface of Parliament Hill debate. "I think the government perceives that this sort of decision is no longer a public issue," said Ottawa defence consultant Eric Ombler. The politics of defence procurement have undergone a dramatic transformation. For 10 years, the military equipment bud-

get declined ever faster than the overall departmental budget—to 18 per cent of the \$9.4 billion budgeted for this year from 26 per cent of \$11.34 billion in military spending in 1988-1989. As well, when the Somalia affair was in the news from 1993 through to last summer, the army's reputation plummeted. Sources say governments at polling asked the military's approval rating among Canadians fell to a low of 26 per cent in August, 1995, from more than 40 per cent before the revelations about the torture death of a Somali teenager at the hands of Canadian troops. Making a big military purchase in that climate—especially while other branches of government were being squeezed in the light to wage out the deficit—was simply not on. Then came the high-profile, highly popular military measures to help out in last year's Red River flood in Manitoba and the ice storm that struck Quebec and Eastern Ontario. Public approval rebounded—part as the deficit was disappearing. Suddenly, spending big on the army seemed more palatable.

Still, Eggleton's bid for cabinet approval last week for the submarines met some resistance. Among those who were opposed, according to Liberal sources, was Finance Minister Paul Martin. Eggleton's own case is a powerful argument in favour of the government's satisfaction with the public response to the recent helicopter purchase. The Liberals had expected a damaging fallout for selecting the EH-101—the same aircraft chosen by the Tories in a deal Jean Chretien campaigned against in 1993 and cancelled soon after taking power. Instead, they weathered only a few days of largely harmless opposition criticism. MPs reported little backlash at the constituency level. If the submarine deal also leaves no political scars, Eggleton may push for two more big purchases up to \$1.4 billion for 411 armoured personnel carriers and perhaps \$2 billion for 35 new helicopters—a sign that, at least in terms of procurement, the military may be on a roll.

JOHN GEORGE in Ottawa

signed with the modern family in mind. Until the 1970s, the military largely attracted 17-year-old single male recruits who wanted to see the world and learn a trade and who could manage to survive on a corporal's salary. Now, military recruits also include single women, married men and women—many with children—or single parents, who come in burdened down—and stay in for years with no appreciable improvement in their situation. That, according to military historians Desmond Morton, is a recipe for disaster. After all, before the military should stop selling itself as a lifelong career and instead like in people in their 20s who will leave in their 30s. "They should get there young and let them go when they're young," says Morton. "Before the comparison of family life becomes untenable."

For military wives, the army slogan "There's no life like it" has taken on a darkly ironic twist. They have never had it easy. 200

■ **COVER** Average deployments are hard on marriages



years ago, the wives of British soldiers were referred to as "regiment baggage." Today, the spouses of Canadian military are listed as "dependants" on their military identification cards. For the purposes of moving, they are engaged under the category of "dependants, furniture and effects." At CFB Moose Jaw, Capt. Linda Hamilton told the committee that although most men think nothing of the term, most women find it offensive. "To list spouses right up there with the toaster," she said, "may leave one with the perception that they are merely an object and not a person."

Dual incomes would, of course, relieve much of the financial stress within military families. But women married to military personnel also face an unsurmountable problem trying to find full-time work. Given that most Canadian bases are located in remote areas, women have almost no chance of finding a full-time job. Even in more desirable locations like Edmonton or Victoria, employers shy away from hiring military spouses—knowing that families could be transferred elsewhere at any time. For professional women like pharmacists, teachers or accountants, the qualifications they received to enter their profession are often useless when they are shipped to a new base in another province. "There's really no work for these women," says Morton. "And they are not encouraged at the idea of joining the other women in the cooking league."

In Moose Jaw, Suzanne O'Brien, a military spouse, told the committee that after fruitlessly spending eight months looking for work, she was advised by Canada Mortgage to take all the addresses where she had lived off her spouse. They were a sure giveaway, she was told, that she was a here-today, gone-tomorrow military wife. Others had much the same story. "I've been here for six years," military spouse Lynn Cooper testified. "The probability applied for 50 jobs and in 35 of them the employer said, 'When will you be leaving?' I don't get any of them." The situation has created

consequences that for spouses who are either unemployed or underemployed and end up, according to Cooper, "swinging" daughter at Tim Hortons—"are making do on a single—usually low—military salary."

Worsening conditions, meanwhile, especially in substandard permanent military quarters (PMQs), only increase the resentment. The parliamentary committee has been deluged with horror stories. In Edmonton, one woman testified that after her husband died of a heart attack with 20 cm of water, a base health inspector who came to check told her the house was "uninhabitable." A corporal told the members that when he moved into a PMQ near the base, he discovered that the windows didn't close—but was told in a letter from the Canadian Forces Housing Authority that "it would not be prudent to replace the windows" because those PMQs would eventually be demolished.

But such complaints are nothing new. Seventeen years ago, retired major-general Frank Norman was asked to do a study of military accommodations. Norman had an intimate knowledge of his subject—he has 25 years' career, he had visits 22 moves, and everywhere he went "the rumors never lie." Norman says that the complaints he heard 17 years ago still ring true today. What happened in his study, and his recommendations, among them that the military turn maintenance over to civilian contractors? "We were told they didn't want our advice," says Norman. "We were asked to wrap up our work. Our report was shelved. I was read as hell about it."

But the bottom line is still money—or, more precisely, the lack of it. In January, a survey was conducted at CFB Bagram in Quebec to develop an economic profile of the 7,900 families who live on the base. The results did not make for a pretty picture. They showed that the average family of four was trying to get by on a single-income salary of \$28,000. According to other military figures, 25 per cent of those now leaving the military do so because they cannot support a family.

The military has made some effort to help since 1981. Military Family Resource Centres have been operating across the country to help families cope with financial pressures, postings and deployments. But over the past two years, Joan Simard, director of the Bagramville resource centre, has seen a 100 per cent increase in calls for help. "I see all the problems that exist in civilian life," she says. "But these problems are occurring more frequently in the military and more severely because of the pressures of military life." Last week, as Canada's busy troops headed out to help with flood relief efforts in Quebec and Eastern Ontario, those pressures were again on evidence—and showed no signs of receding.

■ **BY** SUSANNE RULLAN in Halifax, BRENDA BRANFORD in Victoria, JANE DUBOINT in Princeville, JOHN NICOL, STEPHANIE HOLM and SHARON DUBOINT in Toronto, LUCIANA CICCOCOPPO in Edmonton and CONN HARNETT in Victoria

RUSTING HARDWARE

(in billions)

■ **DEFENCE BUDGET**

■ **EQUIPMENT SPENDING**



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COVER

AN ASSAULT ON MORALE

Military pride has been under the gun

Few Sgt. Dale Lyne, the label British soldiers have put on Canadian troops in Bosnia—"The Kool-Aid Brigade"—speaks volumes about the current state of the Canadian military. Lyne was part of the first contingent of Canadian peacekeepers sent there in 1993. His engineer regiment dodged heavy mines to defuse land mines, survived having guns held to their heads by the local combatants, retrieved body parts of soldiers blown up by mines, and tried to target it all at night with a few beers in the mess. Not so with the current Canadian contingent in Bosnia, Lyne told a parliamentary committee in Cold Lake, Alta. "Since Somalia, Bosnia is now treated as if it's crack cocaine. The Brits and the Europeans were laughing at us." The military command, obsessed with catching and punishing every small infraction, is destroying the esprit de corps of Canadian soldiers, Lyne told *Maclean's*. "Before, we were treated like soldiers. Now, we're treated like boy scouts."

This esprit de corps has been under the gun for some time. Proven pay and promotions have played a large part in the decline in morale. But during the 1990s, the Canadian Forces have also been rocked by a series of scandals. Members of the forces were shocked by incidents during the 1990-1993 mission in Somalia, where some members of the *Airborne Regiment* beat one Somali messenger to death and shot two others by public disclosure of the *Forces*'s internal training manual, and by allegations of drunkenness and sexual assault in *Lebanon*. But for many servicemen, just as damaging to morale were the reactions of the political masters and the military hierarchy—senior officers eagerly disavowed any responsibility for the Somali debacle, the *Airborne Regiment* was disbanded, gag orders and a crackdown on infringements of petty rules followed. Since October, when a parliamentary committee opened hearings, morale—or the lack of it—has been a burning issue for many who tread it.

Sgt. Thomas Dale of Prince's Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry discusses some of the complaints he heard during the Edmonton hearings as "gilding by fire" out of people: "There are economic hardships to life in the forces, he acknowledged in an interview, but he expected no less when he enlisted in 1987. The army was a volunteer then, Dale says, a way of life—the running joke after jumping out of a plane or completing an obstacle course was, 'We got paid to do this!'" Now, Dale says, "We don't get paid enough to do this; you can't escape the fact there's a morale problem."

But low pay is only one cause of soldiers' discontent, Dale asserts. Morale is also at risk from what he and others see as assaults on the military traditions and loyalties that in the past have sustained Canada's fighting forces. Dale claims that he could sign up 500 soldiers who would take pay cuts to re-establish



► Dale at CFB Edmonton: when he enlisted, the army was a volunteer

with the *Airborne*—an elite force that many strive to join. The removal of such a goal, the security of promotion and a ban on wearing merit tabs or badges on combat uniforms, many soldiers say, combine to damage the military identity that allowed soldiers to ignore the fact they will never get rich.

Cpl. Terry Wanser testified that junior officers in Moose Jaw, Sask., "haven't fired a shot in years, but had taken harassment training every year for the last five years." Frontline soldiers said the military is now less capable of responding quickly to crises, and could probably muster only 15,000 troops to bear arms. As Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Gilbert said in *Bagbyville, Que.*: how can poorly paid troops be content in a materialistic society, where "pride, the military community and the great past traditions of the Canadian Forces are no longer strong driving forces?"

The new tradition, many members of the forces say, is obsessed with restricting soldiers to two beers a day, making sure they do not fraternize with members of the opposite sex, and enforcing other petty rules. One January flight from Bosnia to Edmonton carried so many soldiers who had been fined \$2,000 or more for minor alcohol violations at Christmas parties that the passengers called it "Cane Air," after the Hollywood film about a convict transport. Two of the charged soldiers left the plane in civilian clothes, and schoolboys, taking up jobs before their commanding officer but their grade-school principal.

To make any sort run, you have to have esprit de corps," said Warrant Officer George Parrott of Edmonton, who served in Croatia, Bosnia, Germany and Quebec during January's ice storm. "When I joined in '83 they made you feel good about working as hard as you possibly could to achieve the highest level you could. Right now, there's not that feeling of being proud of who you are and what you represent. It's nice to see the public behind us in Quebec, but the public is happy when we're fighting floods and cutting firewood." Parrott and others across the country don't mind the emergency work as drill builders and woodcutters, but they want to be known as—and treated as—soldiers.

JOHN NICOL

TRYING TO STAY AFLOAT

Kathy Couture had never broken the law in her life until one night in October, 1996, when she walked into a pharmacy in Victoria, dipped a bottle of children's Tylenol into her pocket, and walked back out. "I was terrified," she recalls. "I shook for hours when I got home." Couture's 10-year-old daughter, Natasha, had a raging fever; it was five days until her husband, senior Marine Mario Couture, would be paid, and the family did not have even the \$5 to pay for the medicine. They had moved to Victoria from Halifax just weeks before, and they knew no one they could ask to lend them money. "My husband was shocked; I was shocked," says Couture, 31. "I still can't believe I did that. But I had to."

In the months to come, she would find herself doing many things that had previously seemed unimaginable. The Coutures' story is one of a family hit hard by the recent downsizing of the military, their problems exacerbated by what Kathy Couture calls the Canadian Forces' "total insensitivity" to the needs of families.

Three years ago, their life on the East Coast seemed full of promise. With a nest egg in the bank, the Coutures asked Mario's military career manager for official permission to buy a house. They got the go-ahead. Kathy says they were led to believe they would be in Halifax for at least four more years. House prices were high in 1996, and they wanted a mortgage for \$65,500 on a three-bedroom house in Eastern Passage, southeast of Halifax. But 11 months later, Mario was informed that he had been posted to CFB Esplanade near Victoria. The Coutures protested, to no avail—the career manager "told us either go out west, or get out of the military," Mario says.

The couple did a bit of soul searching, thinking of job security and the pension Mario will earn if he stays in the military for 28 years. Finally, they put the house on the market. "I had three bids to sell," Mario says bluntly. "We went." Forced to sell their house quickly, the Coutures lost \$14,000 on the deal—which the military did not cover. In September, 1996, they moved—to a cramped self-drafting apartment in Victoria's Belmont Park, an old-house subdivision of military-owned housing. There, they quickly discovered that their financial woes were just beginning. Carrying the debt from their Halifax house, the Coutures were hard-pressed to make ends meet. Those first months were hell—"This was a life I never thought I'd live," Kathy recalls.

After the stolen Tylenol came trips to the food bank. She went

A sailor's family is hit hard by downsizing



Kathy Couture and children: "I still can't believe I did that!"

on the Nova Scotia house. Although Kathy has a degree in early childhood education, even the prospect of her getting a job does not offer financial relief. In Nova Scotia, she worked as a child-care coordinator for the provincial public service commission, and could afford day care. But in Victoria, she says, child-care costs would swallow any wages she might earn. Instead, she babysits two other children in her home.

The demands of Mario's job—she was at sea for more than nine months in 1996, 10 months in 1996 and eight months last year—compounded their difficulties. Kathy, a native of Nova Scotia, is far from her friends and family, including her sick father. When his parliamentary committee came to Victoria in January, Mario chose not to speak, fearing he would "be a little too honest and offend people." But Kathy testified her family has paid too high a price to keep quiet, she says. "The Coutures do not have to get groceries from the food bank anymore, but it is still a struggle to make the bill and the loan payments each month," Kathy says. It is her friends and neighbors in the military subdivision that keep her going while Mario is at sea. "It's very hard on your self-esteem," she says of her situation. "I think to myself, I'm worth more than this." She can only hope the politicians hear her testimony, and agree.

STEPHANIE NOLEN

for times. "I hated doing it, but I had to—my children are my priority, and they had to eat," she says. That year, the Coutures had to get a charity Christmas hamper, and Kathy recalls crying for hours after they sent the children to bed on Christmas Eve, wondering how she would get through the next day when twins Natasha and Jessica, age 7, and Patrick, 5, discovered that Santa Claus had not come.

Mario Couture, 34, is a senior operator on HMCS Winnipeg, earning \$30,000 a year. He says he has not had a real raise in seven years—the small increments he received before and after the 1994-1996 pay freeze were immediately countered by real increases or the loss of other subsidies. Meanwhile, he says that before his promotion to master seaman when he was transferred to Esplanade, he was doing a job well above his rank. Before the downsizing, he would probably have been five pay levels higher.

The military has tried to help the Coutures, providing financial counseling and a lower-interest loan for some of their debt. But they still owe more than \$25,000, the bulk of which is money lost on the Nova Scotia house. Although Kathy has a degree in early childhood education, even the prospect of her getting a job does not offer financial relief. In Nova Scotia, she worked as a child-care coordinator for the provincial public service commission, and could afford day care. But in Victoria, she says, child-care costs would swallow any wages she might earn. Instead, she babysits two other children in her home.

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Blame it on Clark

The premier takes the heat for the province's economic decline

BY JENNIFER HUNTER

In early February, 220 employees and family members of Flinning Canada, a heavy equipment sales company, were invited to a suburban Vancouver hotel for an office get-together. There were clowns, face painters, a magician. There was a hodgepodge of assorted cold cuts and salads. There were movies and video games. The reason for the festivity? Flinning Canada is moving its operations from Vancouver to Edmonton, and company brass wanted to persuade employees to make the transfer too. So the gathering also featured school board officials and mayors from Edmonton and nearby municipalities, all there to talk about the pleasant life in the other side of the Rockies: the lower personal income tax rate, the cheaper housing costs.

Flinning Canada president Ian Reid insists the company's "beliefs in British Columbia is strong," and notes that the parent company, Flinning International Ltd., is staying put in the B.C. Lower Mainland. But the business decline in Alberta is just too attractive to ignore, Reid says, with less government red tape, lower taxes, and a healthy resource sector.

The family decided to pack up and leave Vancouver under circumstances few officials here would like to live and work in British Columbia these days. While the rest of Canada is booming, the province's economic picture is, in part if not wholly, dismal. At least in the B.C. Throat of the Dominion, a growing recession this year. Every day, television and newspapers relentlessly describe the problems the B.C. housing market (sales in February were down by 32 per cent to 3,560), the shrinking forestry sector (although the government is promoting the industry \$300 million in annual savings due to changes in its Forest Practices Code) the increasing unemployment rate, at 9.7 per cent, one of the highest in the West and well above the Canadian average of 8.6 per cent, and the disappearance of consumer confidence.

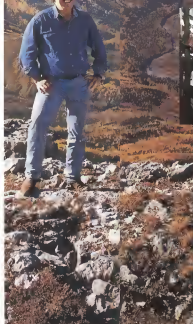
The March 30 issue of British Columbia

Report, the sister magazine to the right-wing weekly Alberta Report, concluded a digitally altered photograph of B.C. Premier Glen Clark as a homeless man, sitting on the sidewalk, cup in hand, with a sign reading "Please help" in large letters, and another that "Need transfer payments." "Business confidence is the number 1 political issue in the province today," says David Mitchell, a historian and former federal M.P.A. "The lack of business confidence in creating a psychology of doom and gloom that politicians and the government just can't shake."

The March 30 budget brought in by B.C. Premier Minister Iain MacPhail offered some personal and corporate tax cuts over a three-year period, but it has done little to assuage consumer and business angst. "There is no recognition in this budget that we do have some significant economic problems," says Jack Filomeno, an economist with the Business Council of B.C. "But the problem is, it's too little, too late." While most consumers and businesses endorse the decrease in the marginal tax rate—from Canada's highest at 54.2 per cent to 49.9 per cent by the end of three years—many argue that the government did not go far enough.

The tax cuts are welcome, says Helmut Paschke, chief economist with the Credit Union Central of British Columbia. "But they are modest." Also troubling is the province's continuing deficit—\$25 billion for the current fiscal year—which will make it harder for the government to step in to manage the economy and has already had an impact on British Columbia's credit rating. "The B.C. economy," says Paschke, "is out of sync with other provincial economies."

Until 1980, British Columbians were snug about life, bragging not only about their mountains and cooler weather but about their financial fortitude, which were outpacing the rest of Canada. Immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan were crowding the province and stepping up real estate. Lumber prices were soaring; high technology companies were emerging. British Columbia boasted it created more



jobs—275,000 between 1980 and 1987—faster than anywhere else in Canada. But the self-satisfaction began to wane in 1987, when economic indicators showed growth here had fallen to less than two per cent, compared with five per cent for Alberta and Ontario, and had continued to drop ever since. The NDP government casts much of the blame on the monetary supermen in Asia and the declining prices of the province's traditional money-makers: natural resource products. "Our province cannot be immune to the economic turmoil in Asia, or to cyclical downturns in the prices of minerals and forest products," MacPhail said in his recent budget speech. Later, he told reporters "We are in an economy that is different from other places in

forestry companies' costs by at least \$1.5 billion a year, contributing to mill closures and layoffs. Critics point out that the neighboring states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho have been able to wean themselves from dependence on traditional resource industries such as forestry, and have diversified their economies, moving strongly into high technology. The unemployment rates in those states are falling: 5.3 per cent in Washington, 3.8 per cent in Oregon and five per cent in Idaho. Premier Clark is now working on a deal to convince IBM to build a software development centre on the Lower Mainland, and hopes this will spur further high-tech growth.

Part of the problem with Clark's agenda, says business Mitchell, stems from his pre-government years as a union organizer. He tends to view business issues in black and white: labor versus management. "His role models are the politicians of the past, the old-fashioned protectors' builders," says Mitchell. "He is serious, young and charismatic, but he is not doing anything different from what the CCF [the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, precursor to the NDP] did in the 1930s." While other left-leaning politicians, such as Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan, are balancing their budget, paying down debt and trying to attract investment, Clark still remains uncomfortable with big business.

True, he has met with business leaders on a regular basis to address their concerns about the economy, but "the business leaders he is sitting down with represent the old economy," Mitchell says. "It's like we're at the back of the crowd jumping up and down screaming 'We're here and we're recognized,'" explains Ross Jones, a partner with Price-Waterhouse who represents high-tech clients. Norman Ball, a political scientist at the University of Victoria, adds that part of Clark's problem is his reluctance to delegate authority to his cabinet ministers. "Politics seems to be set by a very small group in the premier's advisory who are starting to lose touch with economic reality."

Flanning is not the only company to relocate to more moderate business climates outside British Columbia. An Angus Reid poll conducted for the Vancouver Board of Trade last December showed 13 per cent of 212 members surveyed had already moved part of their business out of the province. Mostly to Alberta. And a similar figure collected by the province also show that for the first time in more than 13 years, more British Columbians are moving to Alberta than the reverse. (By the end of last year, net migration from British Columbia to Alberta was 7,600 people.) Flanning Canada president Reid says there is only one thing he really regrets about leaving Vancouver: "When you pull out, people will think 'It's easy to leave,' but 70 times harder to get in." That move to Edmonton will ensure, however, that he and other Flanning executives will also avoid getting splattered by any further downfall in the B.C. economy—a worst-case scenario to an 11



Clark (left), promoting a mill closure; companies are beginning to relocate to more moderate business climates

Canada." Such explanations do not sit well with voters, pollsters say. British Columbians lay the blame squarely on the provincial government's shoulders. A report last month by MacTrenell Research Inc. found that 36 per cent of B.C. residents give the government a poor performance rating—up from 13 per cent last June. Economical Patrick notes: "When the Asian crisis hit, the B.C. economy was only growing at one per cent. So we weren't in very good shape even before that crisis."

The real problem, say many, are the policies enacted by the NDP government since it was elected in 1985 under Premier Mike Harcourt. "The Harcourt government took the B.C. economy for granted," says Flanning's chief business counsel of B.C. "The economy was booming, we raised the taxes that had devastated Central Canada. Asians were moving here, and there was strong employment growth. But the government pursued an agenda that paid no attention to economic growth and competitive issues." Sales taxes on heavy machinery and equipment, the decision to turn some areas where there were mining claims into protected wilderness areas and parks, high corporate taxes—such policies made some leading companies turn to places like Clark in the search for new opportunities. Stringent environmental practices and increased stumpage—the fees charged to log Crown lands—also increased



The scene in Ontario's Lennox County: Flooding at an El Nino

The flooding also left some people stranded. "We're all in a situation where we can't get out of here because the roads were closed," said Herb Drachman, 73, reached by telephone at his home on Flower Road Lake, 35 km west of Ottawa. And for many residents of southwestern Quebec and eastern Ontario, the disaster came on the heels of the disruption caused by January's massive ice storm. Heather Anderson of Hawick, Que., is a victim of both crises. The ice storm knocked out power at her home for 24 days and destroyed the sugar bush on her family's 200-hectare farm south of Montreal. Last week, Anderson, her husband and son spent five days stranded in their home, surrounded by water from the overflowing Chaudiere River. "We didn't want to leave because we wanted to try and save the house," said Anderson. They kept two pumps working around the clock but still suffered some damage. At week's end, though, with the waters receding, Anderson sounded remarkably calm as she spoke with Macdon's by phone. "We're farmers," she said, matter-of-factly. "We survive."

As with January's ice storm, blame for last week's flooding is being put on El Nino, the climatic disturbance originating off the Pacific Ocean that is wreaking havoc with weather in North America. According to Environmental Canada meteorologist Guy Bouché, El Nino was a factor in the floods because it allowed unusually warm weather to linger over Ontario and Quebec for several days. And that threw the spring thaw, which normally occurs in stages, out of kilter. "Everything melted all at once," says Bouché.

The floods left many wondering what they would face when the waters receded. In St-Anne-de-Sorel, Caroline Beaudry stood at the water's edge, peering through binoculars at her home, located on an island in the channel. Most of the island was submerged and the water surrounding Beaudry's small house was perilously deep. The 40-year-old physical education teacher remained upbeat, though. "I'm quite optimistic," she said, noting that the water was still several inches from her house. "The lucky because I'm on higher ground." But for many people last week, higher ground was all too scarce.

BRENDA BRANSWELL in St-Anne-de-Sorel

CANADA

Wet weather woes

Spring flooding hits large parts of Central Canada

The crowded school bus moved slowly along the darkened main street of St-Anne-de-Sorel one night last week, plowing through the high-high water covering the road. Spoil waves lapped against the fronts of bulldozers, motor boats loaded in some drivers. For many people in this small town (60 km north of Montreal), the bus was the only way to return to their homes after the channel running beside the town—a small tributary of the St. Lawrence—overflowed its banks and forced the evacuation of 900 residents. Marlene Gauthier and her partner André Lemire were among them. The couple left early in the week when water started pouring into the first floor of their house. Now, they were passengers on the bus, clad in hip waders and raumats, returning to their home to salvage some possessions. "Our priority," said Gauthier, who with Lemire had been staying with friends, "is to save as much as we can."

Like scores of other communities in Quebec and Ontario, St-Anne-de-Sorel felt the worst of the spring flooding in years as mild, unseasonably warm temperatures and the resulting early spring thaw wreaked havoc across large parts of Central Canada. In all, the flooding forced an estimated 3,000 peo-



ple from their homes. For much of the week, it seemed, just as one river receded another spilled its banks. By week's end, sun and cooler temperatures promised some relief, although officials in both provinces remained guarded. And with good reason: The St. Lawrence—in particular the stretch from Montreal to Trois-Rivières—was still swollen, as was the Mississippi, west of Ottawa, which reached its highest mark in 300 years. "We're not out of this yet," said Doug Skoggs, a spokesman with Ontario's ministry of natural resources. "It's not worse—but it's not any better."

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Splitting a decision

Nine of 18 charges against Gerald Regan are stayed

As he has done so often over the last three years, former Nova Scotia premier Gerald Regan headed into Halifax courtroom last Friday morning to listen to day-long arguments concerning a series of scorned charges against him. But on this particular chilly morning, there was an unmistakable smile to Regan's step and a smile on his face. His high spirits may have been partly explained by the fact that his daughter, Nancy Regan, a local television news anchor, had given birth the previous morning to a healthy eight-pound, 13-cm boy. But it had even more to do with a 61-page written ruling by Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Michael MacDonald that seemed on the same day as the latest Regan grandchild. Responding to a motion alleging that the former politician had been the victim of an abusive police investigation and prosecution, MacDonald stayed nine of the 18 charges facing Regan. "It was a tremendous victory yesterday," Regan told reporters as his wife, Corrie, looked on. "I'm greatly pleased with it."

To the casual observer, Regan's buoyant mood may have seemed puzzling. After all, while MacDonald had weeded out nine of the 13 female complainants brought forward by the Crown and struck down nine indictments charges, the 70-year-old Regan must still stand trial on nine very serious charges, including rape, attempted rape and sexual interference. The charge relates to incidents involving four women that are alleged to have occurred between 1986 and 1989. Regan, who served as Nova Scotia's Liberal premier from 1979 to 1983 and as a federal cabinet minister from 1980 to 1984, has consistently denied any criminal wrongdoing since first being charged in March, 1995. And following MacDonald's ruling, he told reporters he was eager to get to trial. "I'm anxious," he said, "to face my accusers on these false charges."

That may not happen any time soon. Last Friday's court hearing dealt with hours of scheduling. While MacDonald expressed a firm desire to begin the trial no later than this November, a number of other matters must be resolved first—including a possible bid by Regan's lawyer, Edward Greenough, to split up the charges, resulting in two or more separate trials. As well, lead prosecutor Adriaan Reid, advised the court that the Crown is considering an appeal of MacDonald's ruling. If that happens, it could force further delays.



The former premier insists to face his accusers

In the meantime, though, Regan and Greenough were working what they touted as "vindication" at their oft-cited view that, as former premier, Regan had been unfairly singled out by overzealous authorities. From the case's early days, Greenough stated his intention to have all of the charges against his client stayed through a rarely invoked—and even more rarely successful—procedure known as an "abuse of process" motion. As MacDonald describes in his ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada has declared this remedy should be used only in the "clearest of cases" where the conduct of police and prosecutors "shocks the conscience of the community such that it would gravely be unfair and inequitable to proceed" with charges.

MacDonald ruled that, in the most serious

charges facing Regan, Greenough's arguments failed to meet the Supreme Court's test. In fact, MacDonald said, there was "a strong societal interest" in having these charges fully prosecuted. But he did find cause to stay many of the less serious charges—and his reasons had a lot to do with what he described as "brooding" conduct by some police and Crown officials.

MacDonald criticized RCMP Sgt. Bill Price, who publicly confirmed that Regan was the subject of a sexual assault investigation on Oct. 27, 1983—17 months before charges were laid. Normal police practices dictated that Regan should not be named. But MacDonald's harshest criticisms were reserved for Susan Potts, who served as lead prosecutor on the Regan case until she was replaced by Reid in December, 1995. The judge notes that in the summer of 1994, prior to charges being laid, Crown counsel, and in particular Potts, became heavily involved in interviewing potential complainants. MacDonald says that such pre-charge interviewing by the Crown is rare in Canada—and for good reason. "Situations," says MacDonald, "most objectively and dispassionately review the charges to be laid. That task falls squarely within the mandate of the Crown. It is impossible to retain the requisite level of objectivity by conducting lengthy (and no doubt emotionally) pre-charge interviews with complainants."

MacDonald was even more scathing about police notes indicating that, in the fall of 1994, Potts was contacting the court clerk to avoid having the case heard by a judge who had been appointed by the Liberal party. MacDonald called this "a blatant attempt at judge shopping, pure and simple." He added: "This gives the appearance of a Crown attorney who is attempting to secure a conviction at all costs."

Greenough, who had used almost identical words to describe Potts' actions during his arguments as the abuse of process motion, could barely contain his glee at this part of MacDonald's ruling. And at week's end, the firm's top Toronto-based defence lawyer announced he would again ask Nova Scotia's attorney general to appoint an independent prosecutor to review the Regan case to see if the remaining charges should proceed in similar restraint, made in 1995, was rebuffed. Finding that, was Greenough confident his client would be acquitted? "Let's put it this way," he said. "The looking forward to the trial."

BRIAN BERGMAN in Halifax

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Bruce Wallace



Life after Charest

It's one thing to offer tributes to a politician who is retiring from public life. Kind words and ribald jokes about the old wars can be safely expunged as an opponent, headed for the comforts of corporate directorships and long lunches that you can't let your guard down when the energy is just switching from one political stage to another. The House of Commons farewell to Jean Charest last week were polite but political, with other leaders warning that the currently ailing Charest will still be able to hear back from his new pulpit in Quebec. So Jean Charest traveled gently into a pitch for national unity. Blue Quebecers René Gélès (Quebec) blasted away wild at every potential vulnerability the separatist movement department could find from Charest's 15-year federal career, saying the spray would hit just one: Even Preston Manning's joke that, contrary to popular belief, Reformers do indeed like Tories—and plan to "quote after their website and move them house for dinner"—was delivered with the air of the drooping wolf in graduation dog.

Only a couple of Tory MPPs had heard Charest's departure. His old associates here pretty well spent their emotions by now. Many Tories are looking coldly ahead as life without Charest and are growing annoyed with the mess he has left. They feel they waited in go' angst after last year's electoral disappointment—only to be abandoned when they are \$30 million in debt and without obvious leadership successors. Their whippers hope that Charest still cares enough to use his clout to ease poverty for them. He was twining some with business leaders for just that purpose in Toronto last week. But it is almost impossible for a party to solicit big donations without a leader. Those who write the cheque want to know whether new leadership will keep the Tories on a moderate course or veer towards a harder conservative line—and if the party will even survive as a national force. When they last spoke, Ontario Premier Mike Harris wished Charest well in Quebec, but was pointedly silent when Charest asked if the federal party could

count on his support while they rebuild. The most glaring problem is the shortage of viable, fresh leadership contenders who could bring about renewal. Backroom Tory Hugh Segal would out of the blocks, speed dialing through party numbers in search of early commitments. Segal is 47 but his past forges the Bill Davis and John Mulroney names past him into a Red Tory corner. Another chronologically young but badly served veteran is Joe Clark, who has told friends he would shoulder the leadership if his party calls. It has not.

For those Tories who believe they must attract Reform voters back to the fold, Charest's departure would be a blessing—if only they could find a champion for their cause. Ralph Klein seems serious about staying put in Alberta, where he wants to turn his political friendship with Charest into a new Quebec. Alberta asks of provincial power. Klein plans to travel to Quebec this spring for a public show of solidarity with Charest. Meanwhile, in Ontario, Premier George Filion is in a proven winner who, despite strained relations with the federal Tories—who haven't forgiven his turn-of-the-Meech Lake accord—has a record of fiscal conservatism and solid financing credentials. At 55, Filion is looking for challenges outside Manitoba politics and seems Tories think rebuilding the federal party (at least outside Quebec) would be a wonderful new career project. But Filion's own interests lie with his family and, sometimes down the road, a better-paying job in the private sector. With the Pacific Games coming to Vancouver this year, he is busy learning Spanish, and French.

That has many Tories wondering whether a new political coalition is needed. Not under Reform's umbrella, of course. To Tories, Manning's intention to an extraordinary convention soon fall to build a united opposition to the Liberals smells like a takeover. What they want is a neutral convention, where Tories and Reformers could comfortably sit down without donning disguises. It would have to be convened by someone of stature but without personal ambition, someone all conservatives respect. Someone, perhaps, like Peter Lougheed.

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HARD TIMES

Canada NOTES



This story is based on the actual voices of Jean in Halifax.

When I came to this country to make a better life for my family, it wasn't easy. It meant leaving behind my friends, my community, for a whole new way of life. A new language. A new climate. And no work to be found. It was hard to get by. And it was hard to be a stranger. The Salvation Army changed all that. They treated us like we were a part of their family. They gave us food, warm coats and encouragement. They made us feel welcome. Knowing my family is alright means that I can concentrate on my language training. Graduation day isn't far away and The Salvation Army is already helping me to find work. It's still hard sometimes, but The Salvation Army helps make our everyday lives a lot easier. ■



Major Bernard Borden is helping make Halifax a new home for Jean, Maria and Allen, along with many other new Canadians. In order to continue providing this valuable service, The Salvation Army needs your assistance.

We believe...
in helping in hard times



PLEASE GIVE 1.888.321.3433

QUEBEC WOODS NATIVES

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Guy Charest released a decision paper on suspending self-government with Quebec's 11 native bands. Proposals included transferring taxation powers to native communities and setting aside national assembly seats for aboriginals. In exchange, the Parti Quebecois government wants the bands, whose leaders have often claimed their territories cannot be taken out of Canada without their consent, to agree to respect Quebec's territorial integrity.

A B.C. STUMBLE

Liberal party candidate Lou Solara won a surprise victory in the March 30 federal by-election in the British Columbia riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam. Although Solara was a popular local mayor, the Reform party had taken the riding by 7,400 votes in the 1987 election and was expected to win.

IMPLANT LAWSUIT SETTLED

Dow Corning Corp., the largest maker of silicon gel breast implants, agreed to pay up to \$50 million to 16,000 Ontario and Quebec women in settlement of a class action suit. As many as 100,000 Canadians had the implants before they were taken out of the market in 1992, and up to a third of them experienced health problems. The deal still has to be ratified by the courts.

BLOOD DEED UNDER FIRE

Hopkins C. Quailers and opposition MPs continued their bitter attack on the federal-provincial compensation package announced on March 27 by federal Health Minister Alan Rock. The mainline criticism is the \$2,000 victims infected by tainted blood between 1980 and 1990. The controversy was fuelled by reports that the package would include as many as 40,000 tainted blood victims, and that Rock himself had lost a cabinet battle to extend compensation to all who acquired hepatitis C through the blood system.

TOMORROW, TOMORROW

Quebec's Finance Minister Bernard Landry tabled a stand-pat budget with few changes, but with promises of substantial tax relief once the deficit—projected at \$1.5 billion in 1995-1996—is eliminated in 2000. That indicated to most observers that the Parti Quebecois government had decided not to call an election this year.



UNWELCOME ATTENTION:

Bernie Nasson, who with his wife, Krista, won the \$22.8 million Super 7 lottery jackpot on March 27, threatens to set his dogs loose on a camera crew. Journalists descended on the Nassons' rural home near Parliwell, Ont., 33 km northwest of London, after the couple stepped forward last week to claim the money—Canada's largest ever single-ticket prize. Many reporters were interested in asking Bernice, 44, and Krista, 34, about a 1987 police raid on their property that found a hydroponic marijuana operation. The Nassons are scheduled to appear in court in London on June 10 on drug-trafficking charges.

The next Milgaard and Morin?

Supporters of Clayton Johnson, a small-town teacher convicted of killing his wife in 1969, launched a high profile appeal to federal Justice Minister Jeanne McLellan for a new bid. Neighbours loved Justice Johnson, 38, bleeding to death from head wounds the last of the Johnsons' basement stairs in St. Catharines, N.S. Her death was originally ruled an accident, but gossip about Clayton Johnson's relationship with another woman and his \$125,000 life insurance policy on his wife inspired an RCMP investigation. When two witnesses recalled suspicious blood spatters—which they had not mentioned in the original police inquiry—pathologists wrote a report suggesting murder

as the likeliest explanation. Johnson was arrested in 1969 and convicted a year later.

At the March 31 public appeal to McLellan by the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, Joyce Milgaard—whose son David spent 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit—stressed the thoroughness of the Crown's case. No one else reported the bloodstains and no weapon has ever been found even though Johnson had only 10 minutes to commit the crime and hide the evidence. And Johnson's former lawyer added that he had never received an RCMP forensic report that concluded it "would be dangerous" to take the blood spatters as evidence of murder.

Tories turn to Wayne

Saint John's MP Blair Wayne, now the youngest-serving Progressive Conservative in the House of Commons, became interim party leader after Jean Charest resigned to seek the leadership of the Quebec Liberal party. Wayne and Charest were the only Tory survivors of the 1995 federal election, the greatest electoral

slaughter in Canadian history. The pair were joined by 18 more Tory MPs, primarily from Atlantic Canada, after the 1997 election. Their endorsement of Wayne, the 65-year-old former mayor of Saint John and highly partisan critic of the Reform party, signalled the Tory caucus's continuing antagonism towards its rivals on the right. She will lead the Conservatives until a full leadership convention.



Is he home free?

Kenneth Starr, the dogged prosecutor who has been duped into the dirt-swallowing President Bill Clinton for the past four years, has been called many things—dedicated Christian, man of principle, right wing zealot. It has also been said that he has a political ear, that when it comes to anger and that quintessential Washington reality, spin, he just doesn't get it. So it was that when Starr emerged from his suburban home into the bright sunlight of the morning after Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton was thrown out of court, he was carrying a plastic bag full of garbage. A phalanx of reporters and camera crews awaited him, but Starr first detoured to the trash bin and disposed of the bag. Then he turned and spent 35 minutes patiently explaining why his investigation of Clinton would not be hampered. What matters, he said, is the noise of a garbage truck making its way along his street almost drowned him out, as simply "Where cities concentrate?"

Throwing out the garbage: For Clinton's allies, revelling in their first solid victory after a dozen weeks of chastising news, the sym-

bolism could hardly have been more apt. Starr is Clinton's chief for no reason, the man whose relentless investigations into White House and related scandals has cost a long shadow over his presidency. Since last January, when Starr added Monica Lewinsky's alleged Oval Office encounters with the President to his portfolio, his inquiry and Jones's lawsuit seemed to merge into a single assault on Clinton. Last week's surprising ruling by Arkansas Judge Susan Webber Wright that Jones's claim of sexual harassment was "without merit," and should not even be heard by a jury. Immediately put the President's critics on the defensive. His defenders had argued ever since Jones first made her allegations against Clinton in 1994 that she was a tool of his right-wing opponents, that her lawsuit was, in fact, political garbage. Now that it was being tossed out, they said in effect, so should Starr's pursuit of the President.

That will not happen, as Starr himself said perfectly clear. True, the question of whether Clinton had an affair is yet to be decided. But what if Starr's investigation had been so thorough that he had found out that Clinton had had sex with Lewinsky, the evidence White House in-

Clinton snubs the news in Savage's shy facing probe

For 18 months, was infinitely wound up with the Jones case. In January, her lawyers questioned the President under oath about Lewinsky and other women. With Jones's lawsuit thrown out, the White House argued that it would be ridiculous to pursue allegations further from it. "Why," asked Robert Emmet, a senior counselor to Clinton, "are we having an investigation on a parallel matter after the case has been dismissed?" Clinton himself clearly savored the moment. During the end of a 12-day tour of Africa, he was caught by a TV camera in an unguarded moment late at night, strutting a casual, an still cigar in his mouth. The sobering truth, though, was that the President's victory came at a terrible cost. Pyrrhus, the king of ancient Egypt who suffered catastrophic losses while defeating the Romans, famously commented: "Another such victory over the Romans and we are undone." Clinton's legal triumph over Jones, the 31-year-old former secretary from Arkansas

once derided as a trainee paratrooper, may be equally pyrrhic. By the time Judge Wright threw out her case, Jones had already done about as much damage to the President as she could. The lawsuit cost Clinton close to \$4 million in legal fees—and eventually more in court authority. It led to an embarrassing stream of allegations and admissions about his relations with women. As a direct result of Jones's lawsuit, Lewinsky became a household name. Clinton was forced to admit under oath that he slept with Gennifer Flowers—contrary to what he said in 1992 while campaigning for the presidency. Another woman, Kathleen Willey, emerged with a story of being groped by the President just outside the Oval Office, and a childhood friend of Clinton, Dolly Parton, lent back to the cameras to describe what she claimed was a 20-year affair with him.

It seemed as if there was no end to it. Just last week, an actress and former Miss America, Elizabeth Wurtz Gracen, acknowledged that she, too, slept with Clinton while he was governor of Arkansas in 1983. She had denied it in 1995—under pressure from Clinton's campaign staff, she said—but now wanted to make it clear that he had not coerced her. "We had an amazing evening," Gracen told the New York Daily News. "Nothing was ever forced. It was completely consensual."

Jones's legal defeat may put a stop to that kind of tickle revelation, which was sparked by a subpoena in her suit. Jones had sought an apology and hefty damages (originally \$2.8 million, most recently \$700,000) for an incident she said happened on May 8, 1991. The governor Clinton, she claimed, had a state trooper bring her to a hotel room in Little Rock, Ark., where he exposed himself and asked her for sex. Jones sued in 1994, settling off four years of intimate charges and counter-charges. The President used to delay the suit until after he leaves office in 2001, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that it could go ahead. The case was set to go to trial in May 27—until Wright delivered her verdict.

Arkansas is a small state, so it was not unusual that Clinton and Wright had crossed paths before. In 1993, when he was teaching at the University of Arkansas, she took his course on minority law. Professor Clinton lost most of the final exam papers that year—including Wright's. He offered his students a \$100, but Wright wanted an A and insisted on writing another exam. The next year, Wright campaigned for a Republican candidate when Clinton unsuccessfully challenged him for a seat in the House of Representatives. In 1996, President George Bush named her a federal judge. Before she took on Jones's lawsuit, she had already been involved in the Whitewater saga, she said former Clinton associate Susan McDougal fought for 18 months because she refused to testify before Starr's grand jury.

Now, Wright is a risk taker in a risk-conscious, just—something that her 39-year-old ruling last week made very clear. Wright did not rule on whether the incident that Jones alleged ever took place. Instead, the judge said that even if Jones claimed happened really did happen, it did not amount to sexual harassment. "Although the governor's alleged conduct, if true, may certainly be characterized as boorish and offensive," she wrote, "it does not constitute sexual harassment." Even a most charitable reading of the record in this case fails to reveal a hint of a claim of criminal sexual assault. Key to Wright's ruling was the fact that by Jones's own account, Clinton asked for sex only once and backed off when she refused. Under Canadian law, a mistaken improper act might well lead to a charge of harassment, but the law in Arkansas is less stringent. Clinton's alleged conduct, Wright said,



Jones and husband Steve leave the court on howlers on Secretary's Day

'BOORISH AND OFFENSIVE' CONDUCT

Excerpts from Judge Susan Webber Wright's decision:

- "While the alleged incident in the hotel, if true, was certainly boorish and offensive, the Court has already found that the Governor's alleged conduct did not constitute sexual assault."
- "The conduct as alleged by the plaintiff describes a mere sexual proposition or encounter, albeit an awkward one, that was relatively brief in duration, did not involve any coercion or threats of reprisal, and was abandoned as soon as plaintiff made clear that the advance was not welcome."
- "The Court accepts plaintiff's claim that she was subjected to hostile treatment having tangible effects when she was isolated physically, made to sit in a location from which she was constantly watched, made to sit at her workstation with no work to do, and singled out as the only female employee not to be given flowers on Secretary's Day. Plaintiff may well have perceived hostility and animus on the part of her supervisors, but these perceptions are merely conclusory in nature and do not, without more, constitute a tangible job deprivation."

"was brief and isolated, did not result in any physical harm [and] did not result in distress so severe that no reasonable person could be expected to endure it."

Joans had claimed that she suffered in her state job after she rebuffed Clinton. But Wright ruled that she failed to prove that Joans was not fired, demoted or denied pay raises. Her assertion that, along with her co-workers, she failed to receive flowers on Secretary's Day prompted the judge to write acidly that such a slight "does not give rise to a federal cause of action." And Joans, said Wright, failed to prove that Clinton's actions con-

The scandal Clinton's mo

Recently, Wright's decision had no impact on Sierra's *Watergate* investigation, a contradiction underscoring that has already cost some \$10 million. Politically, the move had no outstanding merits. "He's out of the woods as far as the sex scandal goes," Dick Morris, the political strategist who worked for Clinton on and off from the late 1970s to 1996, told *National*. "He's resigned due to his own sex scandal involving a prostitute." The Republicans are going to run screaming from any impeachment or even conviction based on a case that never happened," he says. Morris and 11 Congressmen had been on the verge of impeaching Richard Nixon in 1975—and it was suddenly discovered that the *Watergate* break-in that gave rise to the current cover-up took place 11 years of pull the rug out from under you.

That, however, does not mean that Clinton is home free. Nor does it plain last week that he will continue his investigation into the Lewinsky attack, despite the public recital of Morris and many others that line of attack is now politically discredited. After disposing of his trash, Starr still reports that the crimes he is investigating are serious—perjury, subornation of perjury, and obstruction of justice. Regardless of who wins a trial in the Clinton case, the courts will play the trump of justice. — you must play by the rules. "You must play by the rules," Clinton said in 1992, as he was about to be sworn in as president. At that time, there were reports that members of his law office were debating whether to charge Lewinsky with perjury and perhaps even name Clinton as an unindicted coconspirator in the crime.

And aside from the Lewinsky case, Starr is due to complete his work soon on the less spectacular scandals that go under the umbrella name of Whitewater. They include not only the financial fallout from the failed Arkansas land deal that Bill and Hillary Clinton were involved in while he was governor, but later controversies such as the firing of the White House travel office and how the White House handled FBI background files on prominent Republicans. Those incited tales have long received only the coldest back-

The scandal has damaged Clinton's moral authority



Drugs as admissions of 'complete conscious' res

ground, but Starr's staff has been doggedly wading away at them, and some observers predict that he may produce some surprises when he finally reports to Congress, perhaps early this summer.

Morris, for one, points to recent developments: Little Rock is again a magnet for the President. A former Arkansas governor, Jim Gray Tucker was convicted in 1986 of conspiracy and fraud in the Whitewater scandal, and recently agreed to cooperate with Starr in exchange for a lighter sentence. "Tucker turning on Clinton is very rare," says Morris. The public, he says, has learned to live with allegations of sexual indiscretions involving Clinton—but a well-documented change of financial wrongdoing could be more damaging. Still, Clinton could survive even this—given his unprecedented popularity and Starr's political unpopularity. "It's a real problem," says Morris. "But that Starr inquiry has damaged Clinton's credibility by pursuing the sex aspect, so he now will look to him on the money."



Completely *conventional* sex

Big-time news, and Clinton's top aide, James Carville, has come up with nothing "to any one side or the other about the President."

[illegible]

You and your Dentist: Partners in Prevention

How often should you see your dentist?

It depends. Everyone is different. Your dentist will schedule your dental checkups based on your oral health needs. But as a general rule, checkups every six months allow your dentist to diagnose any problems, and to take preventive action to stop problems before they develop.



Do I need a dental checkup?

Yes. Everyone needs regular checkups. The reason is simple; you can't easily examine the inside of your own mouth. Whether you have natural teeth, dentures, or both, your mouth needs regular care to keep it clean, comfortable and free from infection. Even if you brush and floss daily, your teeth and gums still need regular preventive care by your dentist.

What's involved in a dental checkup?

A checkup can include some or all of the following procedures:

Screening — only your dentist has the medical training, the skill and the expertise to provide a comprehensive diagno-

sis about your oral health condition. Your dentist is trained to detect potential problems like the oral manifestations of diseases, oral cancer, infections, the early signs of gum disease, eroded fillings and dental decay, and to advise you on appropriate treatment and care.

Treatment — your dentist will discuss treatment options with you, and may be able to fix a small problem right away.

Preventive Cleaning — your dentist or hygienist removes tartar buildup from your teeth

Advice — your dentist can give advice and answer your questions based on the results of your checkup.

Be a partner in your dental health.
See your dentist regularly.

A Message From the Member Dentists of the Canadian Dental Association
For more information, visit our Web site at www.cda-adc.ca or write to: 1815 Alta Vista, Ottawa, K1M 1Y6



Canadian-
arrested Nafary
Buck has
'wireless'

WORLD RUSSIA

A market where anything goes

Canadians confront Moscow's business perils

BY MALCOLM GRAY

R ussians is no place for anyone who scares easily. Canadians who have been in Moscow for a while all have war stories of dead goat men, perfume wars and property wars. Some have even received death threats—no small matter in a country with one of the world's highest murder rates. Alex Rotman, for one, worries about his personal safety. But the Calgary attorney is pressing his claim against the powerful state pipeline monopoly over a stolen oil shipment. Peter Derby, a 37-year-old banker with Canadian roots, is intent on making the commercial bank he founded one of the best in Russia. But he is only too aware that in recent years, scores of bank executives across the country have suddenly turned up dead. The well-appointed Moscow headquarters of this Disking Bank bristle discreetly with precautions that in-

clude armed guards, metal detectors and weapon searches on anyone seeking to enter the bank's executive offices. "You have to take precautions," says Derby. "Otherwise you can become completely vulnerable."

Hotel management in Russia can be an especially treacherous business. In the past 18 months, a U.S. citizen and two Russians who were executives in top Moscow hotels have been gunned down in what police say were clearly contract killings. The first of these murders also carried a chilling message to the city's expatriate community: Paul Tsutan, a 48-year-old American, had helped found the well-appointed Radisson Slavyanskaya Hotel, but became involved in a bitter dispute with his Russian partners. His murder remains unsolved, and is still the only killing of a foreign businessman in Moscow. But the pattern of Russian partners attacking out foreigners when their joint ventures start showing profits is all too common—as

many of the Canadians in Moscow can attest.

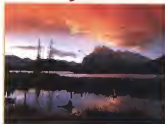
So the victory awarded expertly must last week when Italian-based IMF Group Ltd. turned the tables on its estranged Russian partners—who it accused of harassment and intimidation—by using spectacularly legal means to settle a hotel fight. After years of dispute with Aeroflot, Russia's state airline, over their quickly seized Aeroflot hotel in Moscow, IMF gained a Quebec court order that allowed lawsuits backed by the RCMP to win an Aeroflot jet in Montreal. The day-long arbitration was a grudging gesture from the Russians that they would pay IMF a long-overdue damages award of \$8 million by week's end.

The dispute is far from over, but the earlier crisis illustrated the risks—and potential rewards—that confront Canadians working in Moscow. "There are great opportunities to make money here," says guest importer Nathan Hart, formerly of Toronto, "but you have to keep your wits about you at all times." With a wealth of natural resources, a huge consumer market and a government pushing economic reforms, Russia has plenty of investment attractions. But Canadian-Russian trade is relatively low—just under \$1 billion last year (Canada-China, \$8.5 billion)—and there are only about 1,000 Canadians in the country, mostly in Moscow. Still, Canada's businesses have made an impact. Ads for Bombardier automobiles dot Moscow's landscape, and McDonald's eight outlets have spread through the city courtesy of

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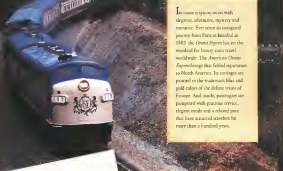


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Yachtage dining car stages have been beautifully restored. Gourmet meals are served in tables with fine china, silver, crystal and linen.

land? Substitutes from the tobacco company lower the cost of highlight brands that help attract yet more smokers.

But Steele has got always done so well. His experience with the Mossad, a Canadian-style pub that he and some local partners first opened, turned out to be a rough introduction to Russian business practices. Eventually, Steele and another big Canadian investor agreed to an \$800,000 "franchise" offer from three local partners—and then got killed on the deal. "Even if I want to court and woo," says Steele, "I'd never get an endorsement order for the pub from here." He is more careful now in picking his partners. And having ended a kidnapping attempt linked to the Israeli seizure, he has learned how to survive in a city where dealing with protection racketeers and bribe-seeking officials is routine. "I love it here," he says. "Moscow is humane and I'm not thinking of leaving anytime soon."

The partnership-pursuing theme also strikes a chord with 38-year-old Torontoite Scott Peltzshaker. Attracted by the possibilities offered by the fall of communism, he arrived in Moscow in 1992 as a fledgling computer specialist. Among his souvenirs are photographs of bloody streetfighting that he snatched from the roof of his apartment building during an armed rebellion in October, 1993. His first business venture, a computer-training program, did not turn out so well, his Russian partner snatched him out of the business. "I was forced out, practically at gunpoint and received death threats," says Peltzshaker. "At that point, I was now here, didn't have my influence and he was well-connected with the government. I decided just to let it go." Peltzshaker took some rough satisfaction when his partner soon failed in the enterprise.

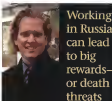
Now, he has hooked up with a bigger—and better-connected—firm and is setting up computer systems for international companies operating in Russia. He agrees that he has acquired far more business experience, good and bad, than he would have received at his age in Canada.

He is not the only member of his family who holds that view: his brother Brad, three years older, came to Moscow at about the same time. He set up a freight-forwarding company to shepherd expatriated assets through Russia's new and convoluted customs system. The pitch he used—lure border-crossing headcases to use—attracted frustrated customers who were only too happy to do so.

Canadian to a fault, the Peltzshakers have been instrumental at setting up a scholarship to their old high school, Donatelli's Upper Canada College, and raising \$34,000—

enough to cover a Russian student's tuition for two years. "We're looking for a mature, winnable student—someone who plays hockey as well as the violin, for instance," says Scott.

Among Canadians, few have the tenacity of the new Russia more keenly than the so-called expatriates returning to the ancestral homeland. Peter Derby's Russian-born father was a member of Canadian intelligence in the United Nations in New York City



Scott Peltzshaker (above); Rotzang (below left); Derby: the foreigners can only for change



shortly after the Second World War. "My father was always giving me things like Maple Leaf cutlery and constantly reminding me of my Canadian heritage," says Derby, who spent most of his childhood in New York. He first went to Moscow in 1987 as an interpreter for leaving pop singer Bity Jeli. A background in finance and banking, plus his language skills, quickly gained him access to early reformers who were looking for ways to open up the country's primitive banking system. "I wanted to contribute to Russia's reintegration with the world," says Derby, "combining my Russian heritage with North American values." After work-

ing at the now-important 500-day plan to turn the Soviet Union into a market economy, Derby founded Dialog Bank and quickly built it into one of the most technologically sophisticated banking operations in Eastern Europe.

Derby has blended his background so effectively that former Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said he could not tell if he was the most Russian foreigner he knew or the most foreign Russian. But Derby holds no illusions about the difficulties of doing business amid what he calls the "unconscious mind of Russia." His conversation, laced with references to past talks with Yeltsin, is also full of caustic comments on the powerful new Russian bankers who are striving to control the government as well as former state assets. "They want to pull all the strings," he says. "But they would be further ahead if they created a business environment where everyone knew what the rules were and played by them."

He is not the only expatriate with mixed feelings about Russia. Rotzang, for one, got out of the Soviet Union in 1972. Then, against the advice of worried relatives, he turned around and went back just as the Soviet Union seemed to be collapsing. Almost 16 years later, the volatile 53-year-old came back to the success he has achieved with Yugra, a small but thriving Russian-Canadian company that extracted and shipped about four million barrels of oil from Siberia last year.

Rotzang is a fighter. When 20,000 tons of Yugra's oil disappeared from pipelines owned by the state firm Transneft in 1994, Rotzang demanded compensation. He remembers that someone close to a high official at Transneft forged his signature and stole the oil. But Transneft has suggested that he file a civil suit against the person he suspects. "That," says Rotzang, "is like a bank saying you can't make a withdrawal because there was a robbery—and then suggesting that you sue the robber if you want your money." So far, he hasn't convinced Transneft to see things his way—but he is still trying.

Another oilman, former Ottawa Enbridge CEO, applauds that approach. "With more foreign firms and individuals in Russia, there's more lobbying, which makes for greater chances of changing the way things are done," says Gidycz, Moscow representative for Calgary-based Canadian Petroleum Ltd. That road exchange may take time—and some more select arbitrators—but to many Canadians the Russian experience is still worth it. "Of course there's risk," says Gidycz, "but the chances of return are also greater. That's why we're here."

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Business

Budman (right), Budman's smiling piece of Canada

Fame, friends, fortune

BY STEPHANIE NOLEN

The press clippings are piled three inches high on a table in Michael Budman's Toronto office. The co-owner of Roots Canada Ltd. strides into the sunny room, steps to survey the pile, places atop a picture that features Prince William wearing the red Roots Olympic hat. "Didn't see that one," Budman mutters. "Ah!" He bends over the photo at two public relations assistants. "Oh, yes, that one? It's a great one. With the hat. Huh?" Budman shrinks his head in apparent amazement, puts the photo back atop the pile. Instead of looking at the hat, he would like to talk about it—and the rest of the clothes Roots supplied to the Canadian team at the recent Winter Games in Japan. "That's the first Olympic clothing ever made," he says, enthusiasm bringing out the American twang in his voice. "The way they felt in their clothes was part of the success of the Canadian team. This hat is a winning piece of Canada." Bigger hats? Perhaps. But that hat is everywhere: these days spotted on singer Shakira McArthur at the Janesville director Jenna Cameron at the Oscars, on ice rinks and ski hills across the country. And if the hat is a symbol of Canada, it is also the best symbol of an unusual and aggressive marketing strategy that has helped make Roots an unparalleled Canadian retail success story. The company is owned by Budman and his partner, Don Green, and they carefully parcel their finest cut deals. But Green says weeks "we're well over \$300 million" last year, and neither requires an explanation for the numbers shared.

The strategy boils down to this: get famous people to wear Roots

clothes. Famous people have obliged; up to now, and the sales figures speak to the plan's success. But in manufacturing Olympic gear, Roots may have gone too far. Athletics have told Marketing that because anyone can buy their uniforms it cheapens their Olympic experience. And some retail analysts ask how long it will be before cynical consumers tire of seeing Hollywood stars shelling their favorite comfort clothes.

The Roots story has taken on the dimensions of a national myth. Two young biggies from Detroit, enthralled with Canada after summer camp in Algonquin Park, open a store there in 1973, selling something called the "negative heel shoe," with a hard lower half as its toe. Within weeks, the store as a trading trend and the entrepreneurs expand: new stores, new products. In the early 1980s, they catch the birth of the fleece sweatshirt craze and soon the Roots heavier logo as a must-have across the country. Budman and Green keep production in Canada, and talk a list about the company's "values" of quality and teamwork, and their love of the great outdoors. In recent years, Roots has branched out from the leather goods and athletic gear for which it has become best known, adding everything from suits and scarves to eyeglasses.

And while Olympic fever has boosted sales beyond anything Budman and Green say they ever imagined, Roots was doing just fine before. Apart from several rocky quarters during the recession of the early 1990s, Roots has grown steadily. There are now close to 100 stores across Canada, in the United States and Asia. And 25 stores are slated to open this year in places like Europe and New York City's SoHo.

Copping up to celebrity has helped. Bruce Philp once did Roots' ad-



Don Budman, Roots' co-owner, says the company's success is 'cheapened'



vertising. Setting out to reward the brand two years ago, Philp posed consumers associated it with quality goods and "summer camp"—and also that Roots clothes were a "great leveler," worn on weekends by everyone "from bank presidents to electricians." Philp's first credited campaign featured a female friend, such as actor Jason Priestley and singer Bobbie Robertson, photographed looking like regular folks in Roots wear. The ads worked, and Philp says Roots credited them with an "out-of-control Christmas season" in 1995. Then, as his first part-time company with Roots shortly thereafter, the celebrity ads continued. "When we looked at those ads," recalls Philp, "we saw 'I'm a housewife' [when Michael and Don saw those ads, they said]. They famous people look great in our clothes." They have a strange, deepened fascination with the famous. And their subsequent campaigns have all been about the celebrities they get. When they see their clothes on famous people "in fact, Roots has been an inside secret in Hollywood ever since Budman and Green made friends with the Second City comedy troupe 25 years ago, and followed (sits John Candy and Dan Aykroyd) to Hollywood, bringing armloads of clothes in suits, coats and hats. Budman developed the celebrity bias, saying they just know a few famous people who happen to love their clothes. Industry analysts dissent. "They are consummate image marketers," says retail marketing consultant Lisa Rubin.

Getting its clothes on famous bodies has been a winning strategy for Roots

"People like to identify with success, especially young people who are into who's wearing what." Good products, and the agents of Canadian celebrities," he says, have reinforced that success. And unlike companies like Nike Inc., Roots has for the most part managed to put its products on celebrities without shelling out huge endorsement fees. "We don't pay people to wear our clothes," he says. "When it's appropriate, we give clothes to people we believe in. It's the company's right." In fact, sister Elva Sagala and soccer player Rob Beghin are paid for endorsements. But industry leaders agree that most others, including actor Matt Damon (whose Roots-led image now grows his shaven across the country) do it like this because they genuinely like the Roots wear—and the free clothes. Both U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien have been spotted in the leather jackets they often wear. And Roots leaders received from Roots at a summit in Vancouver last November.

Roots' Olympic sponsorship, negotiated in 1997, was a prime promotional gamble none the less. Under the one-time deal, Roots provided the Canadian Olympic Association with five sets of clothes for each of 400 athletes and support staff—worth,

Robman estimates, between a half million and a million dollars. "In exchange for the right to market some of those same clothes, emblazoned with the Olympic logo, Roots also agreed to give the COA an undisclosed royalty from each sale." But ambiguities in the contract have left Roots and some of the athletes it clothed at odds. COA executive director of marketing Paul Shapiro says he dealt with Roots but did not speak out what would be sold to the public, except that the parade jacket worn during opening and closing ceremonies would not be. But several other COA members told Marketing's publicity that Roots actually was to market only a red-and-black version of the Olympic jacket with the distinctive red-and-white parade coat reserved for Olympians. Yet that jacket is now being sold in stores across the country for \$99.95. Robman insists that Roots has kept to its contract, and was permitted to sell the replica jackets. "These jackets will fit many athletes, triple gold medalist rower Martin McClean, for one. Most Olympic athletes, she says, 'don't wear a medal, don't get sponsors. The only thing they have is the sense that they're part of something, wearing the Canadian uniform—when you're down there, you take away the only thing they have.' So a skier who competed in Japan but did not want to be identified for fear of jeopardizing future personal sponsorships. It opens one. That clothing was sup-

posed to be unique to Olympians." Adds a speed skater, who likewise would not be named: "It's this Olympic gear they're wearing." But many COA members and athletes expect little benefit from the organization. Robman estimates Roots has paid royalties of "well in excess of half a million" to the COA, but for Shapiro acknowledges that the Roots deals are one of the most generous the COA has ever had. Roots has now sold more than 150,000 of those hats at \$29.95 each, and says Shapiro, "That's a great way to get up and up. We have worn in a year from Roots in excess of what we would normally expect for four years." Roots would plumb like to keep the offer alive. It has had to supply Olympic clothes through to 2008. But Bruce Philp says Roots' aggressive Olympic marketing may backfire. "They should have let the athletes share more," he argues, "should have let the athletes wear a little smaller." Most consumers, he says, are given to assume Roots pays for celebrity endorsements and respond with a degree of cynicism the company did not face when it was just a downtown maker of cottage clothes. But as the press clippings pile up and the photo rings fill the book in Michael Budman's office, such worries seem, well, remote. □



New Loblaw's Loblaw's
selection, size and persistence

"will have a meaningful impact." Their presence has already dramatically altered the environment for Quebec's established supermarkets. Some industry observers maintain that the two dominant food chains have fallen behind the cutting edge of retail innovation in Canada because they have enjoyed a protected market. Increased competition will force them to adjust, analysts say. "Loblaws continually raises the bar," says Carco. With their large, well-designed stores and popular President's Choice products, he adds, "They're always setting the standard higher."

Quebec's other retailers contest the charge that they have been uncompetitive. Provigo, for instance, says it was a pioneer in opening supermarkets when it established the Mod discount chain in the early 1980s. But neither are Quebec's established food chains taking their new competition lightly. Provigo and Metro-Richelle spent more than \$60 million last year to remodel and expand their stores. Officials at third-ranked Avenir Food Merchants Inc., which controls Quebec's KGA stores, declined to be interviewed. As well, Provigo, the leading food chain in Quebec with \$6.4 billion in sales last year, is expanding its own horizons: it recently opened three Mod & Co. stores in the Toronto area, which sell a wider range of goods than conventional Mod stores, including food, cosmetics, toys and CDs. It plans to open up to 10 more Ontario outlets this year. "We don't have any fears about competing the prices at Mod to Loblaws," asserts Jean-Guy Ducharme, a senior vice-president with Provigo. "For a grocery order," he adds, "a consumer will find a better price with us than Loblaws."

Metro-Richelle, which posted sales of \$3.4 billion last year, is also gearing up for battle. It plans to increase the size of its new stores, although not to the scale of Loblaws. "It's not our market segment," says Robert Sawyer, the company's senior vice-president of retail. Instead, Sawyer says, the company, whose stores are mostly operated by independent owners, plans to focus on such perceived strengths as customer service. Some observers question whether there is room for five food chains in Quebec. But whatever the impact on the local business lines, most observers expect consumers to benefit from increased competition. "You're probably going to see a year with very, very good prices," predicts George Canadian, the editor of Canadian Grocer, a trade magazine. That prospect, at least, should meet with little opposition from Quebec shoppers.

ROSEMARY BRANSWILL in Montreal

BUSINESS

A war in the aisles

Outsiders test Quebec's supermarket status quo

Two scores might have been that outside a major tourist attraction. Last Tuesday afternoon, a gun-stop stream of cars rilled into the packed parking lot in the Montreal suburb of Lasalle, Que., drawing scores of people who filed eagerly through the doors of an enormous building. Their purpose: to be among the first to get a peek at the much-hyped first Mega-Mercato Loblaws store. After months of anticipation and controversy over its expansion (ENR in Quebec, the Ontario-based food chain, Canada's largest, opened its 6,500-square-meter Lasalle supermarket on March 27). And the early response, at least, should warm the heart of Loblaws executives. "It will be difficult to compete with this," said Jean-François Fortin, a marketing manager who travelled 20 km to check out the store, ordering lobster at the \$15 counter. "I don't know how the other chains will react in Quebec."

The question is a good one for consumers and businesses alike. In recent years, Quebec's \$25-billion-a-year supermarket industry has been dominated by two Montreal-based chains: Provigo Inc. and Metro-Richelle Inc. Carrying retailers from beyond Quebec's borders who entertained thoughts of breaking in confronted not only the established market presence of these firms, but at least one case, outright hostility from provincial authorities. In 1989, the Quebec government succeeded in blocking an

attempt by Loblaws to take over the Montreal-based St-Hubert supermarket chain, financing a rival bid led by Quebec businessman Michel Gamache (the chain subsequently went bankrupt). Loblaws' current plans to expand in the Montreal area have also met opposition in the form of several petitions expressing concern over traffic congestion and the megastores' impact on nearby merchants. Still, Loblaws, which boasts annual sales of \$10 billion, seems to be taking the long view. The company says it intends to open 12 to 15 stores in the Montreal area by 2003. "It has the size, the strength and the persistence to keep going," says Perry Carco, an analyst with Toronto-based First Maritime Securities.

And Loblaws is not the only out-of-province player that has recently allowed its way past opponents and now finds itself poised to shake up Canada's second-largest market for groceries. Stellaris, a N.S.-based Sobeys Inc., which is rapidly expanding in the province, now has 18 Quebec stores. Already afloat in the Quebec City area, it opened its first Montreal area supermarket last month and plans to open at least three more in the weakly and spring. Warren Fenton, an analyst with Eagle & Partners, a Toronto-based brokerage house, predicts Quebec's grocery market will never be the same. "The combination of the two, one coming in from the east and the other from the west," says Fenton,

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Business NOTES

AIR FARES TO TAKE OFF

Higher fees for everything from airport expansions to surprise transit rights will jack up the price of air travel in the year ahead, according to Calgary-based Canadian Airfare International Ltd. The company said that it has already begun to raise ticket prices to cover increases in industry user fees. The largest jump was an \$80-million increase in fees for air traffic control by New Canada, the privatized former air traffic branch of Transport Canada.

NEGATIVE ON JAPAN

Asian currencies lurched downward and ripples ran through financial and political circles in Japan after Moody's Investors Service lowered its rating on the nation's debt to negative from stable. The rating change reflected worry about Japan's financial system and the inability of its leaders to fix the country's economic problems.

WIC TAKES A POISON PILL

Three provincial securities regulators launched investigations into a poison-pill provision adopted by the board of WIC Western International Communications Ltd. after receiving an attempt to fend off a takeover bid by Winnipeg's CanWest Global Communications Corp. The provision raises additional WIC non-voting B shares available at half-price to investors who already own the stock. CanWest increases its position in WIC.

A TURN OF THE OIL TAP

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed at a meeting in Vienna to cut crude oil production by 1.85 million barrels a day—less than two per cent of global demand. Non-OPEC Norway, the world's second-largest oil producer after Saudi Arabia, also agreed to scale back its output. Benchmark light crude ended the week at \$15.97 (U.S.), down from \$16.76 a week earlier.

DEALS FROM A CHINA TRIP

Canadian business groups traveling with International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi on a tour to China celebrated the signing of deals worth \$700 million. Among the contracts signed: Canadian Aerospace Group of Burlington, Ont., will market Chinese-made aircraft worldwide; SLM Software of Toronto will supply Chinese banks with ATM banking capabilities.



Banks resist a ban on tied sales

Canada's banks lost one round, and await a decision on whether, in their battle to forestall a ban on tied selling. The practice occurs when financial institutions make the provision of one service, such as approval for a mortgage loan, conditional upon a customer buying other services, such as a credit card or a mutual fund, from the same institution. Ontario Finance Minister Ernie Eves overruled objections from the Canadian Bankers' Association and approved a national sales code proposed by provincial securities regulators, which will prohibit banks and others from using the practice to sell mutual funds once it comes into effect on

May 1. Meanwhile, a delegation of bankers appeared before the House of Commons finance committee to lobby against the proclamation of a similar ban on tying loan approvals to the purchase of other bank services; that rule was passed last year as an amendment to the Federal Bank Act, but has not yet been put into force.

The banks argued that tied selling happens only rarely, and that both sets of rules against it only prevent another practice, which they argue is beneficial to consumers: so-called relationship pricing, in which, for instance, interest rates on an approved loan are reduced if a customer agrees to buy another service.

Megahits, megaprices

Moviemakers should brace themselves for Titanic hikes in ticket prices, warns film executive Edgar Bronfman Jr. Speaking to an entertainment industry audience in New York City, the president of Miramax Co. Ltd., the Montreal-based liquor giant which also owns Hollywood's Universal Studios Inc., argued in favor of charging audiences higher prices to see big-budget movies or hit films. Nothing that

theaters charge the same amount for entrance to a \$20-million movie as a \$200-million one, Bronfman insisted. "This is a pricing model which makes no sense."

The comments came at a time when movie-makers' profits have been dropping despite soaring revenues, as production costs escalate and audiences for all but a few blockbuster hits have fragmented. Bronfman called the trend a "death penalty" for studios, adding: "When we have the opportunity to price up, we will."

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The storm in Ottawa and Quebec cut Canada's total output of goods and services (gross domestic product) by 0.7 per cent in January. A huge 11.2-per-cent drop in utilities output accounted for much of the decline, but the transportation, retail and

manufacturing sectors were also dragged down by the weather. Early indications point to a recovery in February. Over the longer term, however, Canada's prosperity could be hurt by one of the heaviest tax burdens in the industrialized world,

warned the Ottawa-based Business Council on National Issues. Canadians are taxed at an average rate of 51 per cent on income over \$82,300, one of the highest marginal tax rates in income the lowest income thresholds in the developed world.

"Even with January's huge setback, real GDP rose 3.3 per cent above year-ago levels. This is a healthy growth rate by any standard."

—NIGHTBURN

"Average marginal tax rates in Canada are not only high, but in fact are continuing to increase. Why? In part, the absence of effective indexation of tax brackets ensures that Canadians will only come to with relatively low increases in income. This will need to be addressed."

—SCN

Taxed to the max

How Canada's top tax rates compare

	ON ADULT TAXPAYER	PAIRED PARENTS (2004)
Canada	81%	\$82,300
Germany	82%	\$127,000
Great Britain	48%	\$55,000
United States	42%	\$58,470

SOURCE: REFINED SOURCE ON NATIONAL ISSUES

A gumshoe for the investor

Robert Goldin admits to owning a trench coat. But that is as close as the toll collector South African comes to a typical private eye. Instead of snooping on wealthy spouses, the self-described financial investigator from suburban Toronto tracks rampant stock-brokers and financial planners—and attempts to recover the big losses they can inflict on unsuspecting investors. While the work is less risky than chasing international crooks, it has earned Goldin to one exceptional hazard: anger. Prospective clients "feel they've been personally taken advantage of," says Goldin, 55. "They all start off the first five minutes ranting at their broker and calling them crooks."

But most small investors suffer in silence, not knowing where to turn. Hurt by sloppy or overzealous financial advisers, some look for help from lawyers or accountants, most of whom lack the experience of seasoned investigators.

High nations with deep pockets can afford to hire the big guns, forensic accountants from large firms such as SPNS or Toronto-based linguist Avey Macdonald-Bushville. Now financial detectives like Goldin are targeting the growing army of small investors who may need an experienced investigator, but cannot afford the fees that bigger firms charge.

There seems to be an shortage of business. Goldin, a former lawyer who has worked for eight years as a financial investigator in South Africa and Canada, says he has been flooded with calls since he started advertising late last year. That should come as no surprise. Lured by the longest bull market in history and record-high interest rates on government securities, investors hungry for higher returns are pouring their savings into stocks and mutual funds as never before. But many are new to the markets, and the potential for abuse is alarming.

The Investment Dealers Association, which polices stockbrokers in Canada, received 471 complaints about the conduct of brokers last year, up from a total of 354 in 1998. While the association investigates some complaints—and handles power-to-five, suspend or permanently ban offending brokers—it does not reimburse investors for losses, says Fred Maer, the IDA's director of enforcement. For investors who rely on self-



Goldin: displaying all the doggedness of a hard-nosed detective

styled "financial planners," the odds are no less acute. Except in Quebec, where financial planners are required to take courses leading to the designation, there are no regulations that limit who can use the title or that establish minimum qualifications.

Despite the brokerage industry's self-regulated status, Goldin says about three-quarters of his criminal involves stockbrokers. "It's not that they're always crooks," he says. "They're just mixed under with work and a lot of their obligations fall between the cracks." Brokers most often run into trouble when they breach their so-called fiduciary duty—their responsibility to always act in the client's best interests.

Investors typically spill out their investment history and objectives in a new-client application form. Brokers who disregard those objectives, and who fail to review clients' goals annually, risk running afoul of IDA regulations. Unauthorised trades—including "churning," or shuffling stocks in a portfolio simply to earn commissions—are also forbidden. Goldin cites the case of a client who returned from a six-month trip to Asia to discover he owed his brokerage \$4.3 million. Contrary to the client's objectives, the broker had been buying stock on margin—with money provided by the brokerage. "He had no idea what his broker was doing,"

says Goldin. "He trusted him."

That can be a costly mistake. Goldin says his clients' losses can easily range from \$20,000 to half a million dollars. Charging a flat fee of \$140 an hour, his investigations begin by collecting copies of transaction records and comparing them with the investment objectives stated on the client's application form. Ideally, he says, brokers agree to cooperate in providing documents. He then turns to analyst reports, newspaper stories and other sources to verify whether the companies invested in were appropriate.

If the case holds water, Goldin initially attempts to negotiate a settlement with the brokerage. If that fails, he requires satisfaction by a third, neutral third party in Quebec and British Columbia. Investors are automatically entitled to mediational costs of \$1,200 to \$2,000, and binding arbitration at a cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Goldin says small investors in other provinces are at a serious disadvantage.

Investors can simply stored them, hoping they will be sorted out by the high cost of pursuing their case through the courts. "In many cases," he says, "people just forget about it."

Not Goldin. Deploying all the doggedness of a hard-nosed detective, he has earned the enmity of more than one brokerage house. "When someone keeps nagging and nagging you and then you get this change letterhead on a dispositive protest, you get this feeling, 'Why am I talking to you?'" says Richard Blakey, lawyer for Toronto brokerage Goeppel McDermid Inc., who says he initially questioned Goldin's credentials. Blakey agrees that investors need a low-cost alternative to the courts for settling disputes, but says financial investigators are not the answer. "The solution needs to have teeth, and Robert doesn't have any teeth," he says. "He can't force me to the table. He is a paper tiger."

Still, Goldin claims he is successful in obtaining all or most of his clients' losses in about 85 per cent of the cases he chooses to chase. That has done nothing to soften his opinion of brokers. "I would rather not put too much trust in them," he says. Given Goldin's scepticism, relations are unlikely to improve anytime soon.

JOHN SCHWELF



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The regular guy

BY JAMES DEACON

His Colorado Rockies teammates are still out on the deep-green diamond, felling grounders and taking batting practice, when Larry Walker saunters onto the dugout at Coors Field in Coors Park. His baseball pants are grass-stained, and he's sweating from his own turn in the batting cage. But he's skipping the last part of practice, which, truth be told, amounts to little more than standing around in the outfield, chasing jokes with the other veterans, while rookies and hall boys chase the fly balls. Trusty is not a perk of being last season's Most Valuable Player in the National League. Walker had surgery in January to remove bone spurs from his right elbow, and after sitting out the early part of the Coors League schedule to give the throwing arm a chance to heal, he is easing into midseason form—with the emphasis, apparently, on "ease."

That said, Walker is slugging his best. After grinding a cup of ve-

ter out of the dugout cooler, he has stilled a smiling by the first row of seats and began scribbling signatures for the throng of autograph seekers who materialize seconds after he takes his seat. "Thanks, Larry," a bespectacled kid gushes, offering a lumpy old mitt to be signed. "Nice glove," says Walker, who, given his own appearance, seems a connoisseur of the well-worn. A middle-aged woman in a Rockies jersey tells him it's her birthday. "I love you, Larry," she blurts as he autographs her baseball. "Happy birthday," he says, carefully avoiding eye contact. The line moves along and he is repeatedly asked if he can win another MVP, or his 400 like he did for so much of 1997. One packed teen wants to know if the hapless outfielder can beat last season's amazing home-run pace, when he clubbed 25 by mid-season. "Thank you'll be 30 by the all-star break!" the kid asks, willing to get a baseball card signed. "Can't," says Walker, tongue firmly in cheek. "I'm already 31."

Really, the guy doesn't get it. Recent MVPs have been known to wear fur and diamonds, and affect the haughty air of royalty

Walker, meanwhile, is completely approachable, a big, loose-limbed lug with an easy smile and a quick wit. Maybe he hasn't been sleeping in stardom for long enough to become a jerk—after all, the Maple Ridge, B.C., native only got serious about baseball in his late teens when his dream of becoming a National Hockey League goalie faded. Or maybe he's just naturally modest. Whatever, success has not expanded his ego: "Walk's the same guy he's always been—he's a little closer," jokes Mike Lansing, the Rockies' second baseman who also played with Walker in Montreal. "No way," says outfielder Ellis Burks, smiling by "He's worse than ever."

Dukeans teammates aside, Walker is among the elite of a game that officially opened its 1998 season last week. Statistically, the slugging right-fielder was the best player in the majors last year, better even than Seattle slugger Ken Griffey Jr.—the American League MVP. In fact, only a handful of Hall of Famers, players such as Babe Ruth, Stan Musial and Hank Aaron, have ever had better seasons than Walker's. He hit .400 or above from April through the latter part of July, finished the season first in the National League with 40 home runs, second in batting average (.360) and third in runs batted in (103)—all while striding 33 bases and winning a Gold Glove as the best defensive right-fielder at the league. Yet Rockies manager Don Baylor says Walker's best asset is neither his bat nor his glove. It's his girl. "When you're in a pennant race, he's the guy you want out there," says Baylor, a slow talking Texan who won the 1976 American League MVP with California. "He likes to be the guy who's in the batter's box when the game's on the line."

Other than when pitchers throw fastballs at his head, the 6-foot-6, three-inch Walker is slow to rile. But he did get upset when he was not named Canadian male athlete of the year in 1997. He took and at Jacques Villeneuve, who got the award for being the first Canadian to win a Formula One drivers' championship. But the

Walker signing
Autographs in Tucson,
autographing his home-
row swing (above): You
from Canada and I like
to think I represent my
country well."

title is "athlete" of the year, and Villeneuve, while undoubtedly athletic, won his title in large part because he had the best car on the circuit. (With a lesser ride this season, the Quebecer has not fared better than fifth in any race.) Walker's MVP was a first for Canada, too, and he alone hit three balls, two home bases, made three catches, threw out three runners. Yet the majority of sport reporters and editors who vote on such things apparently found his accomplishments too pedestrian.

Walker had the attention to get over his dislike. He says he usually doesn't care about individual honors, but this was different. "It's the one award that would have meant more to me than anything else," he says. After a pause, he adds, "I'm from Canada and I like to think I represent my country well. So it's frustrating—I got beat by a machine."

Sports were a big part of his in the Walker family. His father, Larry Sr., had played minor-pro baseball, and his brother, Gary, played goal for the major-league New Westminster Bruins and was drafted by the Montreal Canadiens. Walker had hoped to play pro hockey as well, but he failed in sports with two major-league teams. It was November, 1984, and Walker, then just 17, was struggling in Grade 12, too. "He wasn't doing great badly," Larry Sr. says. "But everything seems hard at that age." Walker wanted to off school, and his dad warned him that he'd have to get a job. "We laugh about it now," the father says.

They can laugh because, exactly two days after quitting, Larry Sr. got a call from Bob Rogers, then the Montreal Expos' West Coast scout. Rogers had seen Walker play in a junior tournament in Kitchener, Ont., the previous summer, and wanted to know if he might be interested in a career in baseball, a game Walker says he then only played for the fun of it, to make some money on the Lower Mainland. The next day, Rogers flew to Vancouver, met with father and son, and left with Walker signed, for a \$1,500 bonus, and assigned to a Class A team in Orem, Utah.

According to his coach there, Gene Glynn, Walker barely knew the rules and had never seen a pitcher who could throw a real curveball. His 1985 stats were not promising, but Glynn liked his combination of speed and size, the way he would crash into the outfield wall to make a catch and tear the cover off the ball on the odd occasion when he made contact. "He had a real fire in him," Glynn says.

Walker proved to be a quick study. By 1988, he had earned a full-time spot with the Expos and became a key member of the 1994 team that was leading the majors when the players' strike cut short the season and cancelled the playoffs. "That accident," he says. "We

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had the best team in baseball, and we had a good shot to win the World Series." Then the Expos, who regularly slap out all their expensive players for little in return, made no attempt to resign him, so he took the Rockies' offer—four years, \$22 million.

Leaning back in his office chair at Hi Corbett, Bayler says he is amazed how far Walker has come, from Chicago's most valuable player. "He has learned an unbelievable amount about the game," says Bayler. "Being Canadian has nothing to do with it. He's just a tremendously gifted player. It would not surprise me if he put together another MVP year."

He will have to stay healthy to do that, and his track record is not good. Walker has never played a full season, and missed all of 1988 following reconstructive knee surgery. He lost 60 games in 1986 after alternating into the outfield (never attempting to catch a long fly ball). He held on, but broke his left clavicle. Not surprisingly, he ended up his MVP numbers in the year when he played the most—153 of 162 games.

He has withstood some blows to his personal life as well. His marriage dissolved soon after his daughter was born, and this year, now 4, lives with her mother, Christa Vandenberg, in Maple Ridge. Does he get to see her much? "Not enough," he says. "She'll be in Denver for 20 days at the beginning of the season, and for a couple of weeks around the All-Star break in July. After that, I don't know." He misses the rest of the family, too, although he arranges get-togethers when possible. He and his dancer, Wisconsin native Angela Heckman, hosted his three brothers and their wives last Christmas for 10 days at Walker's winter home in West Palm Beach, Fla. Birthday season, too. "It was by far the best Christmas, to see my daughter get up and open her presents," he says. "It's a day I'll never forget."

Sitting up the dugout bench at Hi Corbett, Walker has an ice pack strapped around his right elbow, stiffened (treatment after workout) suit. In his other hand is the best pitcher of a kitchen bar, bulging with sliced meat and pickles, which he dispenses of in a single efficient gulp. It is another one of those impossible clear and sunny days in the desert, and Walker is trying to explain how he can miss so much of spring training and still be so sharp. "I don't make the game any harder than it is"



At ease. "I don't make the game any harder than it is"

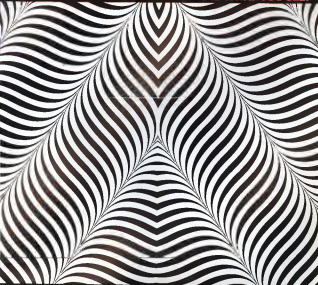
er than it is," he says. "A guy hits the ball, you catch it and throw it back on. It's a simple game if you just stick to the fundamentals and don't try to do too much." There are a handful of other Canucks on big-league rosters, including Anaheim pitcher Jason DeRosier of London, Ont., Oakland outfielder Matt Stairs of St. John's, N.B., Toronto right-hander Paul Quantrill of Cobourg, Ont., and Seattle lefty Paul Spoljaric of Kelowna, B.C. But Walker is unquestionably Canada's greatest export in the American national pastime since Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson Jenkins in the late-1960s and early 1970s. And for that, he has been richly rewarded. His contract is up at the end of this year and, with another good season, he could command \$14 million annually in his next deal. He would prefer to stay in Denver—he likes the team, and loves the city. "It has everything," he says. "It reminds me of home, with the mountains, the snow, the climate, and the people are incredibly friendly." He would like to stay in the future, too, as a coach or a broadcaster, after he retires.

Before that happens, he has one main professional goal. "I want a World Series," he says. "I want to celebrate with the guys, to ride down 6th Avenue in Denver with my teammates and be able to say I was on the best team for one year." Ferguson, he hopes to "miss more time with Bertie." In the interim, he is keeping a journal. "She's going to be 3 in July, so I've started getting things down for her," he says. "I should have done it a long time ago. I just write to her every day and so she knows up there in space, she'll know what was going on with her father." If nothing else, that story will not be dull. ☐

AIR CANADA

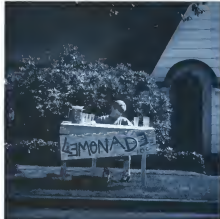


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People

Edited by TANYA DAVIES



Love in 1957: obsessed with the disaster since childhood

On a Titanic wave again

In 2005, a nine-year-old boy crossed the Atlantic on the liner Olympic, sister ship to the ill-fated Titanic, and spent most of the trip questioning *what* about the last hour. His name was Walter Lord, and his fascination with the vessel eventually led him to write two best-selling accounts of the 1912 disaster: *New*, thanks to Titanic media stirred up by the blockbuster film, *Lord's A Night to Remember* (1955) is his eighth work on number 2 on *The New York Times* best-seller list, while *The Night Lives On* (1984) holds the number 5 spot. Before writing *A Night to Remember*, Lord spent years researching everything about the Titanic, from its construction to the guests to minute details of the sinking. The book was an immediate hit, considered the definitive word on the subject. A 1958 film version met with similar success.

Now 80 and semi-retired in New York City, Lord still considers the sinking to be "the greatest news story of modern times. Things that really happened are an extraordinary—the writing and the people, whereby they found themselves—it's all so awesome, to see that modern teenager's word, that you didn't need to look for a dramatic poem." The author, who still writes articles despite being confined to a wheelchair because of Parkinson's disease, says that for his first Titanic novel, he "tried to get across that wealth, position and rank have little to do with whether a person is good or bad, quick or slow, brave or not so brave."

Lord was Titanic director James Cameron's guest at the London premiere last December. He has seen the movie two more times since then. He describes the film as "terrific," but says "the love story was a little involved and interfered with the story rather than made it. I spoke about that with Jim Cameron, and he said he didn't want to do just another

documentary about the sinking of the Titanic." Adds the author: "He was right. The love story has made it a cult film." Lord, a native of Baltimore, who never married, has written 16 other historical books on such diverse subjects as the U.S. Civil War, Arctic explorer Robert Peary and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. "My books have done well, thank God," he says, adding with a smile: "I have not as an excuse following, but a respectable one."

Maybe not immense, but certainly Titanic.

Proof there are happy endings

For author Adele Yim Moh, a has been a Canadian life, replete with nasty stepchildren, quarrelsome sisters and a lousy ending. The fifth child born to a wealthy Shanghai expatriate in 1957, Yim Moh was considered unlucky because her mother had died young birth to her. Then her father married a beautiful Korean who mistreated all her stepchildren. But she was especially cruel to Yim Moh, even abandoning her at a boarding school in 1949, as the Red Army approached, while the rest of the family fled to Hong Kong. For years, Yim Moh was tor-



Yim Moh: 'A grain of hope' for unwanted kids

mented by painful memories.

Finally, to honorise her demons, she wrote *Following Love: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*.

When the autobiography, recently published in Canada and the United States, was released last year in Britain and Australia, it sold an astonishing 100,000 copies—47,000 more than the author's publisher had estimated. But talent all his had recognition for Yim Moh, 60, now an anthropologist in Los Angeles happily married to Bob Moh, a university professor, and with two grown children. Her brothers and sisters have not forgiven her for violating Chinese tradition by revealing family secrets (even though she identifies her siblings in the book only by pseudonyms). "I am completely understood," she says, but then adds that it was worth it: "I want to give unwanted and unwanted children a grain of hope."

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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS





Ready for blast-off

BY ANDREW PHILLIPS

It takes years of training to get ready to go into space. But for Canada's newest astronaut, it has finally come down to this. Shortly after 9 a.m. last Tuesday, Dave Williams and his six fellow crew members are strapped into their seats aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*, facing seaward on a launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The launch is slated at 10:00, and a simulated 90-minute countdown begins. It is the dress rehearsal for the start of their mission, the dry run before a booster rocket blasts them and *Columbia* into orbit next week. It is, Williams says in his quiet, understated way, "a really big reality check."

Not many people know what they will be doing at a precise moment in time in the future. But Williams has known for at least that long where he will be at 2:39 p.m. on April 16. That is when *Columbia* is scheduled to lift off for real, taking Williams and the other crew

members aboard the 90th shuttle mission into space. Within minutes, according to plan, they will be 370 kilometers up, orbiting the Earth at 28,000 km/h—or once every 90 minutes. They will circle the globe for 36 days, performing 26 experiments as part of the *NeuroLab* mission, designed to study the effects of zero gravity on the nervous systems of humans and animals. Scientists plan to take a closer look at how people adapt to life in space and the problems they encounter back on Earth. Along the way, they hope to gain more insight into problems faced by older people, whose difficulties with such things as balance and sleep are remarkably similar to those experienced by astronauts after a prolonged period of weightlessness. *NeuroLab* says Williams will explore "the last two frontiers—outer space and inner space."

Williams will be the seventh Canadian in space, following in the footsteps of such pioneers as Mike Garman and Roberta Bondar. And like the others, he has a CV that makes

mere mortals feel distinctly inadequate. He is a doctor, a specialist in emergency medicine with experience in three cities, and he has a daunting list of other accomplishments: pilot, scuba diver, sailor, canoeist, skier. Now, at 43, his life is mission specific and he is a career astronaut with NASA. As he tells the story, he's living at his home in suburban Houston, he has been packed off with space ever since he was a kid growing up in the 1960s in Pointe Claire, Quebec. Like millions of others, he watched from all the exploits of the early astronauts of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs. He collected space cards the way other boys swapped up baseball cards, but it looked like an impossible dream. "It seemed like all the flying was being done by Americans and Russians. There didn't seem to be any way for a Canadian kid to get involved."

Williams went for the next best thing, using scuba diving as a teenager. He worked as a diver to put himself through school

at Mc Gill University, and later worked as an emergency physician in Toronto and Rochester, B.C., in January, 1989, the space bug bit again. The Canadian Space Agency was recruiting its second contingent of astronauts, and Williams applied with the blessing of his wife, Cathy Fraser, a pilot with Air Canada. There were just four openings—and 5,500 applicants. Against the odds, Williams landed one of them. The CSA gave him broad training in everything from Russian to geology and astrophysics. Then, in 1989, the agency put his name forward to train as a mission specialist with NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. In the space business, there's a step into the major leagues, and he and Fraser, 36, did not hesitate: they moved to Texas along with their son, Evan, now 3. A daughter, Olivia, arrived last September.

Since January, Fraser has been back at her job flying Airbus A320 passenger jets out of Toronto for Air Canada, where, after 20 years, she holds the rank of first officer. Living in Houston, she says casually, just means "a longer commute to work." The couple relies on combining two demanding careers and two young children sound easy, but it hasn't all been smooth. When they moved to Texas, she found they had to consider who was watching Evan, who was born with Down's syndrome, could get the kind

Williams with family, in underwater training (left); experiments to be done once about aging



of special attention he had been receiving in Montreal. A group called the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped provided Evan with home therapy once a week, and he got similar support from the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

Evan's disability does not seem to have Williams and Fraser. At home, he moves around like any other boy, holding options to actively as a major way to orient themselves. "It's so proud that Cathy and I have to try and help Evan achieve the maximum he's capable of," says Williams. "We don't put any limitations on him. We don't say because he has Down's syndrome, he can't do this. A lot of people tend to put limitations on themselves, when they're not really capable of doing it. Things they may not think they can do." They are now the poster family for the West Island Association that helped Evan in Montreal.

Sometimes reluctant when talking about himself, Williams comes alive when asked to describe the science that he and his fellow astronauts will perform aboard *NeuroLab*. Much of it is a study of how people adapt to a new environment, and the understanding of problems affecting the elderly. As people age, they typically have more trouble sleeping, lose their balance and become disoriented more easily, and suffer from loss of muscle tone and bone density—all conditions that affect astronauts returning from prolonged periods in weightlessness called "atrophy." The connection between aging and space travel was underlined in

January when John Glenn—pioneering astronaut, U.S. senator and senior citizen—announced that he will

high-frequency sound waves to monitor blood flow in their brains. "We've got electrodes and wires all over your body and you're floating in the smooth-sloosh of the blood flowing around your brain," says Williams. "It's quite an amazing experience."

The mission's experiments that have the most Canadian content involve hand-eye coordination in space. On Earth, people use gravity as a major way to orient themselves, to tell up from down in space, they must rely more on visual clues. The *NeuroLab* crew will use a device developed in Toronto to test how they adapt. Called a Visio-Motor Coordination Facility, it resembles a computerized box connected to a specially designed glove that allows subjects to operate specific targets. Back on Earth, scientists will monitor how accurately he follows a target while being able to see his hand, and compare that to how he performs when a shield blocks his view of the glove. "When crews get into space they slow down a lot, and it's not clear why that is," says Barry Fowler, an experimental psychologist at York University in Toronto who he'll be studying the test.

"We want to see if they can reallocate their systems in space to adapt to zero gravity."

Williams will also use a virtual reality helmet to enhance the interplay among vision, balance and gravity to understand how people orient themselves in space. And in another set of experiments, the astronauts will see how rats, mice, crickets, snails and two species of fish react to microgravity. The rats will go up in *NeuroLab* when they are just a few days old, at a time when they are entering a crucial

Doctor, pilot and scuba diver, Dave Williams is set to become the seventh Canadian in space

return to space in October as a crew member aboard the shuttle *Columbia*. Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth, back in 1962. When he flies again, he'll be 77—by far the oldest person to venture into space.

Williams and his colleagues will spend part of their time studying a condition known as orthostatic intolerance—a dizzy-like condition common among older people whose cardiovascular systems do not provide enough blood to the brain when they stand up quickly. They can become faint and fall, as do many astronauts after they return to Earth. To investigate the problem, the *Columbia* crew members will wear each other's lower-body pressure suits that simulate gravity. Then they will insert needles into a nerve just below their knees to measure the signals from the brain to blood vessels, and use

"windows" during which they would normally be able to walk on Earth. The astronauts will see how well they walk without the stimulus of gravity, back on Earth, scientists will see how they're about to walking on land. If they can, says Williams, "then something in the nervous system there's an ability to respond to the environment."

Ahead from earthly biologists, the work of *NeuroLab* is largely about understanding how humans can live in space for extended periods of time, eventually perhaps traveling to other planets. The first module of an international space station goes into orbit in June, and astronauts will be living aboard for long periods starting in 2002. The next, essential destination is Mars—a two-year journey that calls for a generation away. "The probably too old for it," says Williams. "What if the generation has a seven or eight-year old Canadian looking to fly to another planet?" Unlikely? Not if the remarkable career of a kid from Pointe Claire is any guide. □

Mission accomplished

A seven-year battle gains recognition for gays in Alberta

When Wenzel never set out to be a gayrights poster boy. Last week, the 32-year-old computer technologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton scooped drama by his seven-year battle with the Alberta government over its unwillingness to provide equal rights to gays and lesbians. "It wasn't," he mused near the end of an extraordinary day. "A sort of disembodied me. People didn't talk to me as a person anymore—they talked to me as the case." But the case was over now, and Wenzel had won.

Just hours earlier, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously supported his claim that Alberta's Individual's Rights Protection Act violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by failing to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Savoring victory with his partner, Andrew Gagnon, Wenzel had shouted "I'm not I win," to cheers from his supporters. Then, at an Edmonton news conference, he made no attempt to hide his bitterness towards the Conservative government of Premier Ralph Klein that had fought him all along the way. "You demonstrated to the very end that you are not a government of the people," he said. "You are a government against the people."

The Supreme Court's decision has sweeping implications. From now on, the court directed, Alberta's human rights laws will be interpreted as protecting gays and lesbians, even if the province does not amend them. Klein said Alberta would accept the court's decision. "It's pretty hard to go against that kind of judgment," he said. But the government would do nothing for a week, he added, to allow caucus members to hear the views of constituents. During the writing of the bill, the two other hold-out jurisdictions—Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories—agreed they will follow the court's lead by extending their human rights laws to cover sexual orientation as the other provinces and the Yukon already do.

While postponing action, Klein immediately ruled out one much-discussed possibility: The premier and his government will not invoke the charter's so-called notwith-

standing clause—which allows provinces some leeway to opt out of specific charter provisions. But a ministerial task force has identified at least 25 pieces of legislation that the ruling affects, he added. And analysts said it was possible some specific issues, such as university admissions or spousal benefits, could trigger use of the

Alberta Human Rights Commission—only to discover that the province's act does not include protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In 2003, he challenged the law under the charter, arguing that the absence of protection was unconstitutional. The Alberta Court of Queen's Bench ruled in his favor, ordering that sexual orientation be covered under the province's human rights legislation. But the provincial Court of Appeal reversed that decision, possibly warning that judges should never clear of meddling on the jurisdiction of provincial legislatures.

That note—that politicians and not judges should make the laws—stood at the heart of Alberta's argument before the Supreme Court. But seven of the eight judges who rendered last week's ruling dismissed the view. "In my opinion," wrote Justice Frank Iacobucci for the majority, groups that have historically been the target of discrimination cannot be expected to wait patiently for the protection of their human dignity and equal rights while governments move towards reform one step at a time. "The issue Alberta judges, Justice John Major, said it should be left to the legislature to determine how to reverse its legislation to protect gays.

Questions were raised on Alberta's radio talk shows after the verdict came down. While many callers said it was time Alberta got in step with the other provinces, others saw the court's ruling as overriding the will of elected politicians and opening the door for same-sex marriage and adoption. Randy Thornton, leader of the Alberta Social Credit Party, took that argument further. "This decision will eventually legitimate polygamy," he said. "They will argue that they cannot be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation."

Montréal, the man who set it all in motion said he is no longer interested in getting his job back at King's. Wenzel was content simply to enjoy his hard-won victory. "I'm glad I could at least be a part of it," he said warmly. "It's a good day for Alberta." Even if some Albertans did not agree.

JOSH DE MONT in Ottawa with
MARY NEMETH in Calgary



Gagnon, Wenzel (right) at Supreme Court: 'I'm not I win'

controversial clause in the future. Just three weeks earlier, a public outcry forced Klein to abandon his plan to use the opt-out clause to limit compensation claims for 700 people formerly sterilized before 1972.

Wenzel had to file his case quickly and up in the nation's highest court when he set out in 1994 simply to get his job back. He began working in 1993 as a lab co-ordinator at King's University College, a Christian school he had attended in Edmonton. Three years later, the school fired him because of his sexual orientation. Wenzel prepared a complaint for



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Toying with a dream

Last month, 18-year-old Gabriel Eiler got what he calls the "best news of my life." After a strenuous process of interviews, tests and application forms, the Amherst student at Guilford Technical Community College's Guilford High School learned he had been accepted this fall into applied arts and computer graphics at the prestigious National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y. "Exciting, absolutely certain," is how he describes his mood as he celebrated with his mother and father.

But it was a bitter-sweet victory. Last week, the payee stopped paying the full cost of sending deaf students from Ontario to NITRD or Gallaudet University in Washington—the only two places offering all educational programs in sign language in North America. “We had no warning about these cutbacks and no preparation time to gather sufficient funds,” says Esler. “I don’t know if I will be able to attend because my parents have a moderate income.”

The new funding formula means that, based on income, families and students will be expected to contribute towards the \$25,000 to \$27,000 it costs to attend these schools each year. For the Ontario government, the change is meant to level the playing field somewhat.

between students who attended those U.S. facilities with all costs paid, and the other roughly 90 per cent of the 29,800 disabled Ontario students who can get only partial assistance for their university studies. Since tuition is considerably higher in the United States, those who attend the U.S. institutions will still get a higher level of support.

Of the 103 Canadian students currently enrolled at NTID and Gallaudet, 130 are from Ontario, where full funding has been comparatively easy to get. Provinces such as British Columbia and Alberta offer only limited funding. But 25 Ontario students have already withdrawn from the spring semester at Gallaudet due to a funding cut.

international specialist in admissions at Gallaudet.

The timing changes will likely mean an increased enrollment of dual students at Ontario postsecondary institutions. In Eider's case, his parents say they want their son to have the best possible education in a supportive environment, so they have not given up on their dream of NED. "Gabe is an extremely capable student and he needs a challenge," says Mel Eider. Gabe's father is "But they can't do that in a regular institution because they don't know how."



Bolstering classroom science

The Ontario government is getting rare rave reviews for a new science and technology curriculum for Grades 1 through 6, one that is in step with those provinces—namely British Columbia and Alberta—that did not wait to make a decision on science and science teachers. The new plan, in *English*, now meets national provincial standards for the first time. In *French*, however, science courses are standards two years ahead of what is being taught in Grade 6. For instance, will now be dealt with in Grade 6, observes Graham Gordon, a York University educator whose team helped write the new curriculum. But unlike Alberta, for example, Ontario will still not require that teachers delivering the new courses have university-level science training, either in their undergraduate years or in teachers' colleges. Canada's system of teacher science teachers, Gordon says, "is a big deficiency."

University roundup

Resist check at University of Calgary. It's one thing for tourists to visit Calgary's mountains. But the hagic ecosystem in nearby Kananaskis closely could be severely threatened if several hundred biology students were unleashed upon it every year. So the University of Calgary's department of biological sciences is purging together an interactive CD-ROM so that students can collect "virtual organisms" from the provincial park and remove them to a "virtual laboratory" where they can be dissected and examined. Also in the same world, University of Calgary biologist Alan Browder has created The Virtual Embryo (<http://vle.uacalgary.ca/~browder>), a Web site to document the science of human and other embryos.

Teased-and teachers. The first crop of out-of-state teachers is set to graduate this spring from Queen's University faculty of education. Instead of having prospective teachers spend most of their nine-month course in lecture halls, Queen's has turned the process around. After a quick one-week orientation, the student teachers are sent off to public schools in Ontario for four months of on-the-job, semi-on-swim learning. The revolutionary idea is to give rookie teachers the real-life experience first and then back up the theory, explains Queen's dean of education Reza Urofsky. "It's amazing how different the questions are when they come back to our classroom."

Student negotiators. The professors don't like the idea much, but Memorial University president Art May, following Acadia University's example, wants to give a seat on the administration's bargaining team to a student representative in the next round of faculty contract talks. "The fact of the matter is that the students are paying 25 per cent of the bill," May says. "If they are not in the room, somebody else is spending their money."

Strike at Delhousie. After a week on the picket line, striking professors and librarians at Delhousie University reached a settlement, but not before some frustrated Delhousie students filed suit in small-claims court against Dr. Janet Ujurnal, head of the faculty association, and Dr. Thomas Trivette, the university president. Faculty negotiators accepted a wage increase of 10.33 per cent over 44 months, but did not succeed in forcing the university to hire new teachers for the more than 100 positions that have been cut over the past 30 years.

Buzzers in choosers. Social workers are not the usual beneficiaries of corporate largesse, even perhaps at the University of Toronto. Bell Canada recently donated \$500,000 to U of T's Faculty of social work for national research into child abuse. At the same time, the faculty turned aside a tortuous \$1-million endowment from a Hong Kong millionaire who made his money in tobacco. Social work downlines Shena says he is not interested in money that comes from products harmful to human health.

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FILMS Brian D. Johnson

Working-class clown

He looks like a cartoon character come to life, a buff clown with a dejected smirk on his face and an unruly thicket of hair spilling out from under a baseball cap. Michael Moore is an overgrown version of the kid at the back of the class who is always showing up the teacher with a smart remark. He is like-able America's merry prankster, a working-class clown who combines the roles of investigative journalist, satirist, filmmaker and activist. He is also the most popular voice of the radical left since the 1960s.

Ever since playing the ravaged economy of Flint, Mich., his home town, into the most successful documentary feature ever made (1999's *Roger & Me*), Moore has become a one-man source of corporate culture. In his Emmy Award-winning series *TV Nation*, he skewered businessmen and politicians with ingenious satirical stunts. In his best-selling book, *Downsize This!* (1998), he presented a magical gallery of "corporate crooks," mostly CEOs who have laid off employees while posting record profits. And in a new comic documentary, *The Big One*, Moore chronicles his own book tour, which turned into a business-bashing journey through the American heartland.

Now, Moore, 44, is on tour again to promote the movie he made about globalizing the book. Stretched out on a couch in a Toronto hotel room, he says he is exhausted. He was up late on the phone to Los Angeles about a network sitcom he has scripted called *After Dark*. "It's about a love where to hate his job," says Moore. "I hope it makes it to air, but I'd be surprised because it very hard to have anything like it on TV since *Ali* in the Family." Meanwhile, with honing from Britain's Channel 4, he is hoping to revive *TV Nation* on U.S. and Canadian networks. "About a quarter of our fan mail come from Canada," says Moore, who could be an honorary Canadian—he directed John Candy in the movie *Canadian Bacon* (1983), a satirizing of a border war to ensure his popularity.

As a radical prankster for the proletariat, Moore is clearly bent on reaching a mass

audience. "A lot of people on the left have lost their sense of humor and are growing to the cowered," he says. "But I didn't come from the left. I never read anything by Karl Marx—I'm embarrassed to admit that. My politics were formed from sitting in Flint, Michigan, in the shadow of General Motors." His anti-capitalist views do not

normalize his raucous *Thin Red Line*. And it is likely that his anti-corporate, sharper and sweeter than *Roger & Me*.

The movie juxtaposes Moore's hilarious stand-up routines with like-minded visits to naughty corporations. He commiserates with laid-off workers at the Payday candy bar plant in Cretoria, Ill., then gets thrown off the property. He bumbles in a duck parking lot. He dodges in a chicken slaughterhouse who are secretly organizing a union. He gets a ride out of the Pillsbury Doughboy and takes Procter and Gamble to the cleaners.

Moore has perfected the art of hacking into corporate lobbies with the camera rolling. And now that he is a celebrity, people seem to have felt more compelled to talk to him. In *Roger & Me*, Moore spent the entire film trying to meet General Motors chairman Roger Smith, in *The Big One*, Nike CEO Phil Knight invites Moore into his office. But the executive's strategic backfires. When Moore asked Knight why Nike employs 16-year-old Indonesian girls at 40 cents an hour, under a clause that has killed some 200,000 people, Knight sheepishly replied "I have a belief that Americans do not want to make shoes." Moore says a Nike official later asked him to delete the part of the film where Knight admits he was 14-year-old.

Moore now has his own success to answer for. When he made *Roger & Me*, he was earning \$140 a week on unemployment insurance. He sold the movie for \$4 million. Now, he lives in a New York City apartment with his producer wife, Kathleen Glynn, and their 16-year-old daughter, who attends private school. But Moore says he will pass his money where his mouth is, giving a third of his income to grassroots organizations and independent filmmakers. "I don't owe society. Just bought my first vehicle in a Dodge minivan. And you are how I'm dressed."

The tale of Moore's new movie refers to his suggestion that the United States, taking a cue from Great Britain, could pump up its image by changing its name to The Big One. The title could just as easily refer to Moore himself—a larger-than-life iconoclast who seems in no danger of being downstaged.



Michael Moore
cackles over
capitalism

The film-maker: All-and-vice visits to naughty corporations

belong on the fringe, he adds. "There are millions of people who believe what I believe. They belong to the biggest political movement in the country, the one where—100 million Americans did not vote to the last election."

In *The Big One*, Moore sets out to find them. He leaves the big-city mayors of his Southern House book tour and visits smaller centers where most authors never go. With some invective donations, including a scene of Moore trading Bob Dylan riffs with Chevy Chase's Rick Nelson, *The Big One* scores moments in the form of a road movie.

Gory, gory, hallelujah

A novel evokes John Brown's violent crusade

CLOUDSPITTER

By Russell Banks
(Knopf/Canada, 758 pages, \$34.95)

American literary giant William Faulkner wrote his celebrated short story "Barn Burning" from the point of view of a boy. The tale's brilliance emerged not so much in the details of the man who dealt his runaway, harried strokes of violence, but in the way Faulkner presented the villain through the eyes of his young son. In *Cloudspitter*, Russell Banks's epic about the life of John Brown—a white man who became the most violent and uncompromising anti-slavery activist in U.S. history—the novelist has also chosen to tell the story from the vantage point of the main character's son, Owen. This strategy brings the reader within intimate reach of John Brown—close enough to understand, as only a family member can do, the gap between a man's public victories and private failures.

The opening page finds Owen as an olded dying man, lying alone in 1900 in a barren cabin in California. A biographer has approached him, seeking information about his father. What emerges from Owen's first-person account is a sad and meager tale of how he was unable to create a life for himself under the shadow of a domineering, charismatic father. In his early years, Owen shares not the John Brown's religious zeal nor his dedication to the overthrow of slavery. He wants a simple, ordinary existence. He wants a woman to love. "I was... precariously balanced between opposing commitments which were set to create the shape of the rest of my life," Owen recalls, "and I knew that not to choose between them would lead me inescapably to a resolution that no person, not my self, but Father's."

And what of John Brown himself? As Banks's descriptions, Brown went unceremoniously further than simply giving up his own life to fight against American slavery. He saved



1900 drawing of the abolitionist being led to his execution; his family suffered greatly

thousands of dollars for abolition, but costed his two wives and 20 children in decades of poverty. He drew into battle sons and sons-in-law, three of whom died as a result. He was responsible for the deaths of a dozen or more other followers and of numerous enemies—some of whom were dragged, half-naked from their homes and hanged to death.

In a caution that lends to evoke its lessons to mythic status, Brown remains one of America's most controversial figures. He has been depicted both as a courageous hero and a headstrong madman. Banks shows Brown to be a unscrupulous businessman and a negligent husband and father, but for lives insane. His only passion is to end slavery, and he lives and dies pursuing that passion.

In direct, transparent prose, Banks creates a complex psychological portrait of

Brown. He whips Owen for a minor domestic transgression, then places the whip in his son's hands and demands that the whipling be reciprocated. He believes that God speaks directly to him. At one point, moments after Brown and his sons carry out a brutal massacre of pro-slavery advocates in Kansas, Brown struggles to compose a sweeping sonnet to Eric. "God will forgive them, son. I have prayed and battled with all my mind and heart to the Lord, and I know that we have done His will in this business."

Banks depicts Brown as an unacquainted with compromise that he shares every opinion with abolitionists—who reject his view that only violence can overthrow slavery. At one point, near the end of an exhausting winter trek to take over a farming operation in New York state, Brown and his wife and children are sheltered by a prejudiced farmer named Caleb Partridge. To show the abolitionist's calculating nature, Banks has Brown stay up half the night, quizzing his host about his views on race and slavery. The next day, as he and his family leave, the man who helped them, Brown concludes: "Somewhere along the line, I fear we'll have to kill him down."

Brown's decision to lead a small band of men in his 1859 attack—with Owen, two other sons and 15 more men two of them Canadian—on a U.S. weapons arsenal and armory in Harpers Ferry, Va.

The goal was to steal rifles, provide them with training and give them to the poor and the black and white men in guerrilla warfare against plantation owners. Brown took control of the Harpers Ferry arsenal for a day or so. But once in town, he squandered the element of surprise and dug in to shoot it out with soldiers and his troops. This final section of the novel unfolds too quickly, and its dramatic power is weakened because Owen is absent from the heart of the action, observing it all from the safety of a distant tent.

In the end, most of the Harpers Ferry raiders—including sons Watson and Oliver—died either in the attack or, like John Brown himself, were hanged after trial. As a military strategist, Brown may have been greatly naïve, but he did drive the United States one big step closer towards civil war and the abolition of slavery.

Cloudspitter, a profoundly moving novel despite the disappointing final scene, illustrates that people of great accomplishments are not necessarily great people. Banks deftly disavows John Brown's commitment to annihilating Africans/Americanos, and at the same time asserts that, in the process, he destroyed the lives of those around him.

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Allan Fotheringham



Learning to love the American bully next door

In a letter to the editor the other day in a Toronto paper, a woman wrote that as an American living in Canada she was accustomed to all the "anti-American" rant, but she was fed up. Bitch, bitch, etc.

What she doesn't realize is that most Canadians are not "anti-American."

They are anti-United States. There is a huge difference.

As someone who has lived for five delightful years in Washington's Georgetown, I am an authority on Americans—the most generous, open, friendly people on earth. Katherine Graham, owner of The Washington Post, second-best paper in the land, lived around the corner. I shared a dinner party cook with Bob Woodward of Watergate fame. Katy Kelly, the finest gossip writer who ever existed, Frank Sinatra and the regular, used to stop for a chat on the sidewalk during her morning jog.

Americans as individuals are wonderful companions. The United States, as a nation, is a bully. People generally don't like bullies.

President Calvin Coolidge, in his term of 1925-1929, declared that "the business of Americans people is business." Only two facts, as Canada—the mouse sleeping with the elephant—knows well. After naive Canadians were assured that the NAFTA accord actually meant free trade, ask the softwood lumber exporters of British Columbia what has happened.

Ask the steelworkers in Hamilton. Ask the wheat farmers in Saskatchewan. Ask the fishermen off Prince Rupert while Alaskan boats poach B.C.-born salmon that, after their five-year cycle in the Pacific, are attempting to return to B.C. waters to spawn.

Americans like to win. That is why they have such a successful country, built by luxury and subsidies, investments, fighting off their colonial Irish opponents in one war, taking themselves forever in a vicious Civil War over slavery, now the one and only superpower left in the world. They like to win, and they almost always do.

Jack Valenti is the highest-paid lobbyist in Washington for Hollywood movies (which now rank with Boeing aircraft as the largest supplier of U.S. foreign trade). He was a presidential aide, the warrent, several years ago, then if Canadians achieved their goal of controlling

their own film distribution system (i.e., as opposed to Hollywood control) this would be a "virus" that could spread to Europe.

That is the American mind-set. He could not perceive the left cross irony in his statement. France is trying to preserve its own culture by preventing the entire neo-colonization of its movie system. Valenti is wonderful, I cherish him because he epitomizes what America is a bully. Little Canada as a "virus." I love it.

Earlier Francoise, as prime minister invited to Washington to meet president Lyndon Johnson, passed at Temple University in Philadelphia to deliver a celebrated speech to advise the United States to pursue its bombing of North Vietnam. Pearson, whisked to chopper next day in the retreat at Camp David, asked the voluble Texan over lunch "What did you think of my speech?"

A meeting LBJ took has guest to the arm in the terrace and brought into a temple. Canadian Ambassador Charles Ritchie and White House and McGeorge Bundy, watching, grew embarrassed they went for a walk in the Maryland woods.

Returning after almost an hour they returned, astonished, as a by and caught the Nobel Peace Prize winner by the lapels and shouted "You pissed on my rug!"

When Johnson came to Ottawa as an official visit in 1967, nervous U.S. security officials would not let his sleep at 24 Sussex Drive and instead in Hartington Lodge, the very-very prime ministerial retreat in its Gatineau Hills in Quebec.

When Pearson arrived, he found his weekend home overrun with Washington security heavies in no

boats and in the bushes with walkie-talkies. Feeling the call of a hare in the night, he was accused in the hall by two huge men who demanded who he was and what he was doing. Pearson replied "I'm the prime minister of Canada and I'm going to have a leak."

Such are the usual vagaries born by the mouse who has to sleep with the elephant. Canada is very much in the same position. Finland was when faced with the might of the Soviet Union, a neighbor. Finland, always with a winning coalition government composed of a certain number of socialists, some Communist-influenced European rules now included in its own way by our free-trade Plaza deal with it in Ottawa—was wary of the Russian bear. By certain trade restrictions, sanctions, whatever, Moscow can play heavy bully to the Helsinki government. The Canada economy—logs and mines in the hinterland—depends on the engine room of the Ontario manufacturing base. Which is built on a basically artificial subsidizer of the U.S.-Canada Auto Pact—brain plants of General Motors and Ford and the rest supplying cars to parts to the States that could easily build them themselves.

Washington with one stroke of the pen, if it ever got round, could the Canadian economy. As Moscow always threatened Helsinki. We don't dislike Americans. We just fear the United States.



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